



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 4 - Day 5

Approaching God

Read from the Hymn - *Let us Love and Sing and Wonder* by: John Newton

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy's store; when through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more: he who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God. Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high; here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky: "You have washed us with your blood; you are worthy, Lamb of God!"

Prayer: The Old Testament (as in Psalm 91) does not explain how God's impervious strength and his sacrificial, loving weakness could be combined without negating each other at all. But on the cross we see the absolute righteous power and the tender, sacrificial love of God combined and shining forth brilliantly, both equally fulfilled. Take a minute to thank God for his majesty and meekness in Jesus Christ.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 24:1-22

Passage Introduction: Sayings of the Wise - Part 4

Get all the advice you can! (vs.6) We must not be indecisive (James 1:8), but too many people are impulsive. Proverbs urges you not to merely "get a second opinion" before making a decision, nor even to just consult with a few intimate friends. It calls us to have many advisers or counselors, literally, a "abundance" of them.

Proverbs 24:1-22 - ESV

1 Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them, **2** for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble. **3** By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; **4** by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. **5** A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, **6** for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory. **7** Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the gate he does not open his mouth. **8** Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer. **9** The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind. **10** If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. **11** Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. **12** If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work? **13** My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. **14** Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if

you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off. **15** Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the righteous; do no violence to his home; **16** for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity. **17** Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, **18** lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him. **19** Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, **20** for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out. **21** My son, fear the LORD and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise, **22** for disaster will arise suddenly from them, and who knows the ruin that will come from them both?

Daily Study Questions

Why do we need many advisors? The first reason is because if you consult only a couple, you are likely to choose people from your own party or point of view. These proverbs, then, “counter the danger of caucus-dominated political practices.” (*Waltke - Proverbs*) They call us to transcend partisanship. The second reason is for thinking “outside the box.” To devise creative solutions you have to foresee all the problems and generate all possible options. No two or three people will be able to do that, and the resulting plan will find no new way forward. Jesus, all by himself, brought a plan for salvation that shocked both liberal Sadducees and conservative Pharisees (cf. Mark 3:6). But we will not be wise without many advisers.

- Do you have advisers from across a spectrum of opinions and backgrounds?
- What 1 or 2 principles do you observe in this section?
- When in your life or the life of someone else have you seen this observation illustrated?
- How can you put this observation or principle into practice?

Close in Prayer: Lord, I find it difficult just to ask where an item is at a grocery store. Yet even you, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, take counsel together. Give me friends who can be counselors, and then give me the humility to listen to them. Amen.