

A Lady Like None Other



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Many of you know that we adopted my oldest son, Jason, as an infant. Something incredible happened over three weeks ago. After 27 years, he and his biological mother found each other. As Jason was sharing with his natural mother for the first time, she wanted to know a little about his life. He told her that God couldn't have given him a better home or adoptive mother. Of course, that melted our hearts. I have to agree, my wife, Marie, is a great mother. And there are many great mothers out there.

But no matter how great the mother, there is a lady that exceeds them all. She is a great example and role model to all mothers. She is the supreme lady in Proverbs. Her name is Wisdom. We have seen her presence and beauty several times in this series. In today's text, she speaks about herself. And as she describes herself, we get the sense like there is no other lady in the universe like her. Listen to her speak as I read Proverbs 8:12-31.

Wisdom is not a literal lady. There was not another being called Wisdom next to God when He created the universe. Wisdom is an incredible attribute of God that is being personified as a lovely lady. It's another way of talking about God. It's another way of understanding Jesus Christ. Actually, Christ could be speaking the very words of our passage today about Himself. So keep in mind

that when we talk about Wisdom as a lady, we are actually speaking of God.

In this amazing passage about Wisdom, there are some things she wants us to know about her more than anything else. One of them is in the verses we read today.

Wisdom wants us to know that she wants to be loved (Proverbs 8:12-31)

I come from a Pennsylvania Dutch background. We ate well and we talked backwards. Take this sentence for instance: "Throw mama down the stairs her slippers." There's something wrong about that statement. My wife keeps correcting my sentence structure in my sermons to this day. Here's a wise Pennsylvania Dutch saying: "We get too soon old and too late smart." That's a true statement. You can improve the grammar but you can't improve the point.

One of the things many men learn too far down the road in life is that a woman wants to be loved. A woman wants us to think she is beautiful. She wants to know she is being pursued.

In the verses before us today, Wisdom tells us some incredible things about herself. She wants us to take a good look at her. There is an abundance of personal pronouns, 16 in 10 verses,

because she wants us to notice her. Then she asks, “Do you think I’m lovely? Will you love me (verse 17)?” She says, “I love those who love me. If you diligently seek for me you will find me.” Wisdom is a woman to the core. She wants to be pursued!

A lot of people connect via the Internet. They describe themselves in very favorable ways. I have never chatted with strangers over the Internet. But from my observations, a lot of people paint a better picture about themselves than reality. They want someone to be attracted to them. And they often develop a person who doesn’t really exist. A lot of people are lying their face off.

By the way, if you are married, spend your time getting to know your spouse better. Don’t spend your time with some stranger on line. It’s not a good idea. Neither do I recommend chatting on-line if you are single. But if you do, just remember another statement I learned as a kid, “All that glitters is not gold.” Not so with Wisdom. What she has to say is not only phenomenal, it is true. I want you to hear what she has to say about herself.

I have good friends (verses 12-13).

Verse 12 tells us she dwells with prudence, knowledge, and discretion. These are synonyms for wisdom. Prudence is basically a positive shrewdness. It is the ability to evaluate beyond the obvious and choose the best course of action. Knowledge is the command of facts with a huge God bias. It is knowing God, His ways, and His reality. Discretion is the power to discern between right and wrong.

Do you know how important good friends are? The friends we choose have more to say about us than anything else we do. Those we hang out with reveal our character. Wisdom’s

friends tell us her true character. She is wise, true knowledge, and pure.

She tells us who are not her friends in verse 13—pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverted mouth. Pride is self-centeredness and it rivals the place of God. Arrogance is the exaltation of self. The evil way is anything that is opposite of the nature and ways of God or anything without the sanction and blessing of God. And the perverted mouth is whatever is vulgar, untruthful, or tears down another person. Wisdom says that the fear of the Lord is to hate these things.

I Corinthians 15:33 says, “Do not be deceived. Bad company corrupts good morals.” Bad friends pull us down. We don’t want to believe this but it’s true. If you choose bad friends, it will reveal your character, your values, and where you’re headed. Wisdom has good friends.

Here’s the second thing Wisdom says about herself:

I’m a great coach (verses 14-16).

She says in verses 14-16, “Do you have any problems? Do you have any decisions to make? Do any of you think life is challenging and difficult? Do you need guidance? Do you need advice? I am counsel. I am sound wisdom. I am understanding. I am power.” She’s telling us that she can help if we’ll but listen to her. Her voice is the Word of God—pure—simple—untampered with.

We go to so many other sources for help. We try to lean on our own understanding. We want our friends to weigh in. And we often bypass the voice of Lady Wisdom. I have often found two things. First, others can coach you the wrong way. I have heard a lot of human wisdom. Be very careful. Second, in critical times when I urgently needed someone, they weren’t there.

The line was busy. They were unavailable. They were away. And guess what I had to do. Get on my knees and say, "Well, God. I guess it's just You and me. Tell me what to do." I can't tell you how often that happens. I wonder sometimes when I'm going to figure out that's where I need to go first!

Wisdom says something incredible in verse 15. "Kings and rulers who come to me will rule well. They will make good laws. When leaders govern in justice, they listen to my counsel." Let me tell you one of the dangers of misapplying the doctrine of the separation of church and state. I'm all for not forcing religion on anyone. I am against a state religion.

But let me tell you what happens when they kick God and the 10 commandments out of government and government buildings. We get leaders without wisdom. Wisdom to rule well comes from God and from the Bible. Take that away and there will be corruption among leaders, they will pass bad laws, and court justices will make foolish rulings. This incredible lady named Wisdom is for everyone including politicians. She's a great coach!

Here's the third thing Wisdom says about herself:

I am wealthy and I give it away (verses 18-21). I forget his name but for years, a guy from the Twin Cities was in the paper. You could write him and if you touched his heart, he'd give you money. He gave millions away. One day he wrote his last column and said, "I don't have any more money. I gave it all away." Look at verses 18-21. Wisdom says, "Riches and honor are with me. I will never run out. Mine surpass wealth. Because I am righteous and just, what I have to give

you is better than the best gold. If you love me, I'll fill your treasury."

It would be a mistake to think that Wisdom's reward is expensive material things. I do think she gives those things to some who manage wisely. But she keeps stressing that the wealth that she has exceeds the value of the most priceless material things on earth. In a nutshell, she offers us life in God. That's it. That's her wealth! What price tag can you put on eternal life? What could you pay for intimate fellowship with the living God? How could one buy the mind of God? Where could we buy character and integrity? Who could we pay to give us a good name? How could we earn every spiritual blessing that God has bestowed on us, most of them not even being accessed by us?

Yet regarding these treasures and more wisdom says, "If you love me, these are yours!" For those who love Wisdom, she supplies them without cost. She is ultimate wealth!

The fourth thing Wisdom says about herself is this:

I am God's eternal delight (verses 22-26; 30). Wisdom now talks about her association with God. She says, "He possessed me (verse 22)." She means this in a positive way. God possessed wisdom like He possessed knowledge and righteousness. There's a matter of interpretation about the word "possess." It could mean "create." People have seen Wisdom as something that God created. Not so.

Wisdom was an indispensable part of God's eternal nature. In verse 22, she says she was there "at the beginning of His way." We know God had no beginning. This means that Wisdom was always with God. In verse 23, she says, "From everlasting I was established." There was never a time

that God was without Wisdom. As a further reference point, Wisdom cites creation. She says, “Go back before creation. I was there. I am eternal (verses 23-26).”

Not only was Wisdom with God in eternity, Wisdom says in verse 30 that she was His daily delight. God loved wisdom. He rejoiced in her. He could not imagine existence without her. There was unparalleled mutual delight. I think the inference is strong. Wisdom is asking, “If God loves me, what about you?” How could we not love what eternally delights the heart of God?!

Now the last thing Wisdom says about herself:

I helped to create this incredible world (verses 27-30). In verses 27-30, Wisdom tells us that she was there during all of creation. She was there in every verse of the creation account in Genesis 1. In verse 30, she tells us that she was beside God as a master craftsman. She wants us to know that what influenced creation more than anything else was wisdom. It was by wisdom that God fashioned and organized the universe and called it “very good.” When we look at creation we see the wisdom of God. Everything about creation reveals God’s wisdom. That is, unless we remove God from the equation.

Friends, I will be frank with you. Evolution is not a Christian position and for many reasons. One great reason is in this very passage. Evolution removes the wisdom of God from the process. Evolutionists explain our world from an entirely different vantage point. Everything is random through a process of natural selection. Plants and animals made incredible adaptations and mutations because of their environment. And it all fell together into an incredibly complex and delicate balance that

works and defies the mind. I don’t think so!

When you study the atmosphere, the tilt of the earth, the temperature, the oceans, the land, the plants, the animals, and the way it all interrelates—I’ll tell you what it screams—incredible intelligence, design, and wisdom. Our world operates the way it does and it stays together because God’s wisdom took care of every essential and fascinating detail. The study of this planet and the universe is really a study of the infinite and wise mind of God. When you understand that, everything about nature will astound you!

Verses 30 and 31 literally say that Wisdom “played” before God and “played” on this earth. Creation was so incredibly perfect as the result of wisdom, it was her delightful playground. And guess what part of creation Wisdom enjoyed the most? “The sons of men (verse 31)!” She went crazy over these unique creatures called human beings who were created with her help in God’s image. People are incredible beings and Wisdom loves people. And today, she still turns her love to people, opening her heart to bring them back to God.

Conclusion

Well, there you have it. That’s what Wisdom has to say about herself. She just lays it all out there. She tells us how amazing she is. Wisdom wants us to know in no uncertain terms—she is exquisite beauty and exotic mystery. And now she wants to know something: “Having told you who I am and what I do, will you delight in me? Do you think I’m lovely? Do you love me?” She wants to be loved. She wants to be delighted in. She wants to be pursued.

There is such a danger in our lives—the bad woman in Proverbs. She also wants to be pursued. She also wants us to desire her beauty. She tries to seduce us to her and away from Wisdom. Wisdom is wounded when we choose substitute beauties. She is hurt when we ignore or reject her. Wisdom cries out, “I am alluring, inviting, beautiful, and fulfilling. Come and enjoy my beauty!” How often we ignore her beauty. How often we substitute the ugliness of foolishness for beauty.

I want to close with two compelling applications and a prayer we can all pray.

Application #1—Pursue wisdom. To pursue wisdom is to pursue God. To love wisdom is to love God. God loves to be pursued. Whether you are male or female, chase hard after God. He is the rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). Make loving and delighting in Wisdom your major goal in life. When you do, you end up with God!

Application #2—Pursue the women in your life. I better add a word here. Pursue the “legitimate” women in your life. I’m speaking to the men here. Most of us have one or more women in our lives. In their hearts, they want to be like Wisdom. Each of them knows they fall far short of all of Wisdom’s qualities and beauty. But they have this in common with Wisdom. They want to be loved. They want to know they are lovely. They want to be pursued.

If you have a wife, let your special lady know she is lovely. Let her know you love her. Not just in word, but also in deed. Don’t be passive. If you have a daughter, dad, she needs to know that she is lovely and awesome in your eyes. She needs to know that she counts big in your life. We impact our girls more

than any other person on earth does. And for all of us who have living mothers, they need to know that they are deeply loved and respected. We need to treat them with honor and sacrifice.

These ladies don’t earn love and pursuit. We give them love and pursuit because that’s the need and nature of a woman. And when they get it, look out. They thrive and they flourish. I tell you guys, there are far too many women starving for love and attention. Give the women in your life just 30% more than you are giving them now and the quality of everyone’s life will increase dramatically. Women want to be loved and pursued. Wisdom wants us know from our passage today is that she is no exception.

As this sermon ends, I’d like you to pray a prayer. I want you to pray it if you mean it to any substantial degree at all. If you don’t mean it, don’t pray it. It’s a prayer to wisdom about finding and loving her. How often do we tell her that we love her? You can tell her in the following prayer.

Dear Wisdom,

You are lovely, the fairest of all women. I am arrested once again by your awesome beauty. How quickly I forget and my heart chases after other lovers.

Your love amazes me. You keep loving and calling to me. You keep offering me your choicest fruit. But I’m so seduced by other voices and the wealth of this world.

I don’t deserve you. I have hurt you. But you haven’t changed your mind about me. You still love me and desire to delight in me. You invite me from the depths of your heart to love you in return.

*Could I be so foolish to spurn you or to
make you jealous with other lovers?
How could I ever break your heart and
destroy myself for lesser loves?*

*O Wisdom, delight of my life, forgive me
for my unfaithfulness. Keep reminding
me that you are my beloved and I am
yours.*

*Dear Wisdom, now I see you for who
you really are. O, Wisdom, you are
Christ, my lovely Lord! How lovely You
are to me!*

Scripture References

- **Proverbs 8:12-31**
- **I Corinthians 14:33**
- **Hebrews 11:6**

Notes: