

Day 17



Scriptural Background: Prov 8

*"Does not wisdom call?
Does not understanding raise her voice?"* Prov 8:1

Biblical proverbs have been compared to hard candy: though they are short and easy to “pop in” quickly, their full meaning often requires sustained contemplation. The book opens with the statement that “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7). One implication of this is that although many of the proverbs may appear at first glance to be merely practical pieces of advice, which seemingly could work without God in the picture, all the proverbs are actually grounded in God Himself. At their truest level they are describing how He acts and how He has designed the world to operate. Thus, wisdom is not merely some abstract bit of understanding; rather, biblical wisdom preeminently is *knowing God* and coming to interact with His world the way He does. A clear example of this may be seen by comparing 3:19–20 and 24:3–4 in which the same words are used to describe God’s construction of the world and a human builder’s construction of a house (see also Heb 3:4). Significantly, therefore, in Proverbs and throughout the Bible wisdom is often *personified*. Folly is a loud woman raising her voice, but Wisdom, too, calls out in the streets (8:1–9:12). When Jesus comes He continues this trend, first by personifying wisdom as well (Mt 11:19), and second by declaring that He is the Person to whom all the wisdom of Solomon pointed (Mt 12:42). In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col 2:3; 1 Cor 1:24, 30). In Him we may know God and be made like Him (1 Jn 3:2).

Prayer:

LORD Jesus, teach us to turn from Folly and turn toward You. Let all the so-called treasures of this world be held lightly in our hearts and in our hands. Teach us to value You above all things, for this is what it means to be truly wise. In Your Name, Amen.