

Proverbs Series

Wisdom: To Miss It You Have To Close Your Eyes! #2

The Choice: Home or Away – Proverbs 1:8-19

I. Listen To Those You Know and Trust and Who Love and Care For You - VS 8-9

- A.** Hear
 - Listen to – critical listening skills
 - Context and content
 - Pay attention – use to develop life-long values
- B.** Don't reject
 - Embrace – understand
 - Apply
 - Core values
- C.** Your father and mother
 - Those you know well
 - Inner circle of your life
 - Those significant people
 - Those who care about you
 - Wisdom practices this throughout one's life
- D.** Result –
 - It will be good for you
 - It will mark you as a wise person

II. Don't Become Part of The Gang Mentality - VS 10-18

- A.** Don't be enticed
- B.** Don't be fooled by the easy way to get stuff
 - It's at someone else's expense
- C.** They are using you to get theirs and you will not be treated as an equal
- D.** Their way leads to destruction
 - Evil
 - murder
- E.** They don't even know this end is predictable
 - Not a smart move

III. A Summary – VS 19

- A.** Greed never has a good outcome
- B.** You never get what you bargain for
- C.** Never satisfied

IV. Thoughts

- A.** The need for critical listening skills
 - To discern who is speaking
 - Is it truth or deception?
 - Promise or seduction?
 - What are the consequences?
 - Does it give life or take it away?
 - So you can learn the source of wisdom and stick to it
- B.** Life is lived in groups
 - Family, clan, tribe
 - Small group, ministry, worship
 - Associations, work, clubs, etc.
 - Gangs, criminal organizations, mobs
 - Be careful in picking your groups – they can lead to disaster
 - Parents concern – Where are you going? What are you going to do? Who else will be there?
- C.** The unwise choice in this passage is based on greed.
 - Violence is the end result of greed – James 3:13-4:2
 - The danger is not violence but greed
 - Greed becomes a problem when our primary relationships suffer as a result of wanting more – family, friends, church, community
 - It's a trap – enticing but deadly
 - The birds get trapped because they aren't aware of the danger – wisdom makes us aware
- D.** God's concern is for the sinners too. That's why Christ came. So how can we help those who make the wrong choice?
 - Be concerned – God loves them
 - Be careful how you try to help them – Too hot to handle
 - Be realistic – Some of us are better equipped to work with the rough and tough. Gifts and skills and temperament
 - Be thankful that no one is too lost for the relentless love of God to find them and save them