

**Wisdom and Christ  
Pleas and the Promises  
Proverbs 8:32-36  
November 15, 2015**

## Introduction

Who is Lady Wisdom? Solomon tells us of this lovely lady who is the embodiment of wisdom. Who is she? Lady Wisdom is the personification (picture) of the attribute of God. She was there at creation. God used His wisdom to create and order the universe. Lady Wisdom is also personification of Solomon's wisdom. Where did Solomon get his wisdom? He received his wisdom from God.

**1 Kings 3:5-9, 12** *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" 6 And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" 12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.*

Solomon has received God's wisdom. Solomon tells his sons that wisdom is worth it, and it is a blessing. He instructs his sons to seek after wisdom.

## I. Wisdom's Plea and Promises (32-36)

- Gaining attention (32)

**32** *Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.*

- Listen to me
  - Whole point of **chapter 8**
    - Goes back to her calling out to those who will listen

**Proverbs 8:1** *Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice?*

**Proverbs 8:4** *"To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men."*

- Lady Wisdom is telling the sons to listen to her
- She explained why they need to listen to her ("Now then")

**Proverbs 8:10-11** *Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; 11 For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

**Proverbs 8:19** *My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver.*

**Proverbs 8:21** *That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.*

- Wisdom is worth pursuing and knowing because of all the benefits she provides

**Proverbs 8:22** *The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old.*

**Proverbs 8:30** *Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him,*

- God used wisdom to create and order the universe
- Construction of **verse 32**
  - **32a**—plea and it is expanded in **33**
  - **32b**—promise and it is expanded in **34-36**
- Plea (**33**)

**32a** *Now then, my sons, listen to me*

**33** *Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.*

- Listen to me, to my instruction
  - Instruction
    - Learning and bringing yourself in conformity to God's character and action
    - Learning to do what God wants you to do and how God wants you to live
- Be wise
  - Ongoing response to wisdom
  - Involves listening to things you do not want to hear

**Proverbs 12:1** *Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.*

- Do not ignore it
- Promises (**34-36**)

**32b** *blessed are those who keep my ways.*

**34** *Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.*

**35** *For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from YHWH. **36** But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death.*

- Blessings—happiness
- How do we receive blessings (**34**)

**34** *Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.*

- By listening to wisdom
- How?
- By watching wisdom closely and regularly

- Take every opportunity to learn from wisdom (i.e. how often do you read the Bible? How often do you take notes on what the preacher or teacher says?)
- What are her blessings? (35)

**35** *For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from YHWH.*

- Finding life
  - Favor from YHWH
  - Quality of life found in relationship with God
    - Peace, joy, security, guidance, assurance
    - These are real experiences we have when we find favor in God
  - Must seek it—"find me"
- What are her warnings? (36)

**36** *But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death.*

- Fails to find me
  - Misses me (missing the mark)
  - Harms himself (does violence to his soul)
  - Opposite of the favor from God
    - Conflict, guilt, fear, confusion, anxiety
- Loves death
  - Those who hate wisdom
  - Not necessarily emotional

**Proverbs 1:7b** *but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

- Wanting to do what self wants

## II. Christ's Plea and Promises

- Gaining attention
  - Preached

**Matthew 4:17** *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

- He proclaimed the truth
- He proclaimed the need for repentance
- He preached with authority

**Matthew 7:28-29** *And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

- Not as rabbis taught—quoting other rabbis
- Miracles

**Mark 2:5-12** *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their*

hearts, **7** "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8** But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? **10** But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic, **11** I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." **12** Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

- His miracles were demonstrations of His power
- No evidence for sins been forgiven
- However evidence that a person was healed
- He wasn't just talking about the kingdom of heaven, he was demonstrating it as well
- Christ is better than Lady Wisdom
  - Wisdom = personification, metaphor; Christ is real
  - Wisdom cannot forgive sins; Jesus Christ can
  - Wisdom cannot heal; Jesus Christ can
- Christ's plea
  - To whom?

**Luke 5:32** *I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.*

**Luke 19:10** *for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

- It is only for those who recognize their sinful condition
- Those who recognize the need for a Savior
- It is for those people that Jesus calls and saves
- Christ's promise

**John 5:24** *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

- Those who believe in Him will have life—eternal life