

Wisdom's Guide to Folly

Proverbs 1:20-33

Scripture Memory of the Month

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

READ Proverbs 1:20-33 What stands out to you from this passage?

v22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

The "simple" - do not want to have to put in the effort to think. They don't want to consider their way. It is easier for them to just go along with what others say and do.

14:15 The simple believes everything but the prudent gives thought to his steps

20:19 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babblers.

22:3 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it

The "scoffer" - is a false version of wisdom that elevates themselves by putting others down. They walk in pride and do not receive correction. They mock and belittle.

21:24 "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

11:12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

22:10 Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.

13:1 A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

15:12 A scoffer does not like to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.

The "fool" - harms themselves and others. The fool trusts themselves completely and does not take correction or instruction. The fool "hates knowledge".

28:26 Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

18:2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

17:10 A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

Any one of us can approach aspects of life in one of these ways.

Where are you tempted to join the simple? Where would you rather just repeat what you've heard rather than do the work of learning and developing your own opinion?

Are there times that you avoid thinking through difficult situations and decisions?

Where are you tempted to be a scoffer? Do you celebrate mocking others? Do you attack people rather than their arguments when you disagree? Do you tear others down in order to build yourself up? Are you better at critique than construction?

Where are you tempted to join the fools? Do you take criticism? Can others correct you? Do you seek advice? Do you listen to it when others offer it?

How can we repent and begin to move forward in these areas? How is the gospel good news to us when we choose foolishness?

3) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

Plan:

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

Pray:

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.