



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

Let's do a little review...The first aspect we studied was? (Mistress of the Domain). Someone give me a short description of this Aspect found in Genesis 1. What was the second aspect? (Help-completer) (Gen 2) and the third? (Life giver) Gen 3.

Tonight we will begin Lady Wisdom.

The first 3 aspects are pretty straightforward from the first 3 chapters of Genesis. This aspect is a little more abstract.

Webster 1828 dictionary defines wisdom as; 1. The right use or exercise of knowledge; the choice of laudable ends, and of the best means to accomplish them. This is wisdom in act, effect, or practice.

If wisdom is to be considered as a faculty of the mind, it is the faculty of discerning or judging what is most just, proper and useful, and if it is to be considered as an acquirement, it is the knowledge and use of what is best, most just, most proper, most conducive to prosperity or happiness.

Wisdom in the first sense, or practical wisdom, is nearly synonymous with discretion. It differs somewhat from prudence, in this respect; prudence is the exercise of sound judgment in avoiding evils; wisdom is the exercise of sound judgment either in avoiding evils or attempting good. Prudence then is a species, of which wisdom is the genus.

In God's word wisdom is contrasted by a tale of 2 women, Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly. Tonight we will discuss Lady Wisdom created. I will introduce this aspect and then we will study as a group this beautiful aspect of woman.

Let's introduce ourselves to Lady Wisdom by reading a few passages of Scripture.

"Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; she has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table; she has sent out her maidens, she calls from the tops of the heights of the city; "Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks understanding she says "Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed. Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding."



Proverbs 9:1-6

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.” Proverbs 31:30

As you can see in the these scriptures, Wisdom is personified as a woman. In fact she is the first female. She is wisdom who was the help and companion of God, the teacher and counselor of all people. “Wisdom is a body of principles by which God created His universe morally and physically, the principles of order, beauty, and life which help sustain the world, causing it to show forth the glory of God.” 5 Aspects of Woman by Barbara Mouser pg 20 Vol 2 . Some people hold to the view, as you might have learned that this wisdom is Christ. However let’s look closer at what the scriptures say.

Proverbs 8:22-26 “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth: while He had not yet made the earth and the fields nor the first dust of the world.”

Look at this verse and answer the first questions.

What is being described here? (look at 8:12)

Can this Wisdom be Christ? Why not?

What keywords tell you that God created this “woman?”

We can see from scripture that this “entity “is not Christ because Christ was not created. (John 1;1) In fact the Bible says that the world was created thru Christ. (Col. 1:15-17) Christ is God the Son and has no beginning and no end. Lady Wisdom is the first of God’s creative acts. Of course we understand that this is not a literal woman, like Eve was, but a personification. Personification is “the attribution of a personal nature of human characteristics to something nonhuman, or the representation of abstract quality to human form. “



Some other examples of personification that you might have heard are:

- ★ Justice is blind and at times deaf.
- ★ Peggy heard the last piece of cheesecake calling her name from the refrigerator.
- ★ The candle flame danced in the dark.
- ★ Father time can always catch up to you , no matter how fast your run.
- ★ Light has conquered darkness.

Why did God ascribe the attribute of wisdom to being a woman? “Masculinity is rooted in the Godhead. Femininity is rooted in the creation.” Barbara Mouser points out. Perhaps that is why the Earth is referred to as “Mother Nature”. Let’s take a look at Lady Wisdom in our D groups thru scriptures and then we will come back together and discuss what we discovered.

WISDOM IS THE BODY OF CREATION PRINCIPLES....

God has created certain principles in this universe that are constant. Can you think of some...ie gravity

These principles are called God’s natural laws. In a similar manner to physics and nature, God created certain moral principles which are foundational to the design of life. What are some sayings that you know (probably heard them from your mother) that might be considered “Moral” laws or patterns? Ie “your reap what your sow.”

These are called God’s moral patterns. “God created and maintains these wisdom principles which give the creation its order, beauty and structure. We know that God is a “God of order, not chaos.” Thank goodness!!! We would all be in trouble if gravity failed to work one day!! Unless it is the Rapture!!! :)

HOW IS WISDOM LIKE A LADY?



Read Proverbs 8:30- 9:6....Write down the verses that describe each of these aspects which wisdom displays...

Mistress of her Domain

Helper/Completer

Lifegiver

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Glory of Man

WISDOM AS INVITER AND HOSTESS

Read Proverbs 8:1-8 What is Lady Wisdom inviting her guests to and what will they “feast” on if they accept her invitation?

WISDOM’S REPROOF

Read Proverbs 1:22-26 How merciful is Lady wisdom?

“Wisdom’s absolute rejection of the fool in his folly is an evidence that this personification of Proverbs is NOT Christ. God often forgives and extends grace to fools even in their dying hour....The moral principles of God’s Universe roll on, even when He graciously and personally forgives us.” Thank God He does!! Can you think of a time when you rejected “Lady Wisdom’s” reproof?



We must not forget our role as Lady Wisdom in our home. Sometimes we must be very constant in our discipline of our children esp, but yet we practice the grace of forgiveness and love that Christ shows us. Discipline is a blessing of Lady Wisdom, but it is not easy.

WISDOM; COUNSELOR, PROTECTRESS, PATRON AND FRIEND

Read Proverbs 4:5-12 and list the benefits of wisdom

List one area in your life where you have had to employ the rigors of wisdom? How have you benefited?

The virtues of wisdom in its most simplistic form are skill and insight. We know from Proverbs 9:10 that the beginning of wisdom is

“What an amazing wealth of benefits is ascribed to wisdom! Consider this list of blessings promised in Proverbs 1-9 to those who seek wisdom and accept her reproofs. She gives profit better than silver, gain more precious than gold, long life, riches, honor, pleasant ways, peace, happiness, life to the soul, adornment, security, sweet sleep, fearlessness and exaltation. If you accept her teaching and learn her ways, she will become your patron and benefactress.” 5 Aspects of Woman pg 9 Vol 2

Even though wisdom is a quality for men and women to obtain, it is an honor to have it described as a female. Ralph Waldo Emerson said “ I have thought a sufficient measure of civilization is the influence of good women.” If we listen to and follow Lady Wisdom we can bring peace, beauty, harmony and decency to many situations. We must cultivate both our “inner” domains and “outer” domains of wisdom.

Lets look at 2 examples of women from scripture, Hannah and Mary. Read I Samuel 2:1 and Luke 1:46-47. What do these scriptures tell us about these women and where they drew their strength?



Wise women are not only skillful workers; they are thinkers and ponderers. How did Mary gain wisdom? Look up Luke 1:29, 2:19,33,51

To ponder means ~ to think about carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion. Lady Wisdom challenges us to think before we speak or act.

Look at James 3:13-18. Describe demonic wisdom

Describe heavenly wisdom

Take a minute to pray and ponder about these verses. Is the Lord convicting of anything in these scriptures?

There are many voices in our culture today that espouse wisdom and virtue that women should follow (ie Oprah, etc) But let's take a look at a truly wise women. Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and write down all the virtuous attributes of this woman that can apply to all of us whether married or single.

Application Challenge; Start reading through Proverbs and right down everything God teaches you about wisdom and apply it.

