

# Sunday School Lesson

June 21, 2020

Title:

The Gifts of Wisdom

Subtitle:

Receive Wisdom's Gift

# LESSON OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this lesson, the students will be able to do the following:

- ▶ Describe the blessing of Godly wisdom
- ▶ Explain why the benefits of Godly wisdom far outweigh those associated with material wealth.
- ▶ Recognize the incomparable value of godly wisdom in producing wealth, righteousness, and justice

# The Value of Wise Instruction

(Proverbs 8:8-11)

8) All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. 9) They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. 10) Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. 11) For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Silver and gold. Historically, they have been widely used as a standard for trade and commerce. As desirable as these may be, godly wisdom is even more valuable and is thus more highly preferred (see Psalm 19:10)

Those who spend their lives chasing after silver and gold may seem to prosper for a season, but eventually the quest for wealth above the godly pursuit of wisdom ends in utter disappointment.

## B. When Wisdom Speaks

(Proverbs 8:12-14)

12) I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. 13) The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. 14) Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength

wisdom continues here with a reference to the residential dwelling mate of wisdom. This mate is identified as prudence, which means care, caution, and good judgment, as well as wisdom in looking ahead.

Prudence is the ability to govern and discipline oneself through reason, skill, and good judgment of one's available resources even though those resources may be small.

In verse 13, five additional characters and concepts are introduced to the literary landscape—including evil, pride, arrogance, evil actions, and perverse speech. Wisdom has no dealings, friendship, or kinship with any who belong to this terrible tribe.

The insight and power of wisdom are said to overthrow entire cities (Proverbs 21:22).

## C. The Fruit of Wisdom

(Proverbs 8:17-21)

17) I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. 18. Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. 19. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. 20. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

A reciprocal exchange of love is accentuated in verse 17. The love of wisdom and the embracing of all that it has to offer come along with valuable benefits of wisdom loving back in response. To truly love God and the wisdom that comes from God involves more than a mere head knowledge of God or a mere academic exposure to the truth. A genuine love for God involves a personal, passionate, intimate, experiential relationship with the God of the universe. Matthew 6:33 encourages this kind of intentional seeking of God: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" God has no lack of material benefits, because everything belongs to Him. Furthermore, God is not opposed to material prosperity but so often the presence of prosperity results in the absence of God as top priority.

## Some of the gifts given King Solomon by those who came to consult him and to hear the wisdom God had given him.

### 1 Kings 10: 1

When the Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's fame, which brought honor to the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions.

### 1 Kings 10:3-5a

Solomon had answered all of her questions; nothing was too hard for the

king to explain to her. When she realized how very wise Solomon was and she saw the great palace he had built. She was over whelmed.

### 1 Kings 10:10-11

Then she gave the king a gift of 9,000 pounds of gold, great quantities of spices, and precious jewels.

Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

(In addition, Hiram's ships brought gold Ophir, and the also brought rich cargoes of red sandalwood and precious jewels.

### 1 Kings 10:24-25

People from every nation came to consult him and to hear the wisdom God gave him.

Year after year everyone who visited brought him gifts of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, horses, and mules.