



## Sermon Notes and Study Questions

### Putting Fear in its Place

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> for gaining wisdom and instruction;

for understanding words of insight;

<sup>3</sup> for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,

doing what is right and just and fair;

<sup>4</sup> for giving prudence to those who are simple,

knowledge and discretion to the young—

<sup>5</sup> let the wise listen and add to their learning,

and let the discerning get guidance—

<sup>6</sup> for understanding proverbs and parables,

the sayings and riddles of the wise.

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:1-7

#### Notes:

#### Introduction: Reason for Fear

- There is reason for fear
- But our fears are probably always inordinate
- God's Desire: Be Strong and Courageous

How do we put fear in proper place?

- *Hokma (wisdom)* – the best way to get at the meaning of this word is to see it as the hoped for consequence of what you will be if you study this book and apply its teaching.



Practical Guidance

- Wisdom and Emotional Intelligence

In Proverbs, especially with practical wisdom, timing is everything. “It is a joy to a person to give an apt reply. How good a word at the right time”. (Proverbs 15:23)

Ethical Guidance

There is not a command for every situation, but the proverbs intended to help us identify how to choose the good in every situation. But the good in one situation is not the same as the good in another situation. Consider the following two Proverbs (26:4-5) that are side by side:

<sup>4</sup> **Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.**

<sup>5</sup> **Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.**

## Theological Guidance

The Fear-of-Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom/knowledge

Proverbs: 1:7; 1:29; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13; 10:27; 14:2, 26, 27; 15:16, 33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4; 23:17; 24:21 28:14; 29:25 31:30

### Why Fear?

*Yirath Yahweh (Fear of Yahweh/ Fear of the LORD)*

- Nor running from God but running to God in faith
- Reverence
- Awe
- Caution

## The Way to Wisdom



## Conclusion:

Genesis 15:1 Genesis 21:17 Genesis 35:17 Genesis 42:23 Genesis 46:3 Genesis 50:19 Genesis 50:21 Exodus 14:13  
Exodus 20:20 Numbers 14:9 Numbers 3:2 Deuteronomy 3:22 Deuteronomy 31:6 Deuteronomy 31:8 Joshua 1:9  
Ruth 3:11 I Samuel 4:20 I Samuel 12:20 28 13 II Samuel 9:7 II Samuel 13:28 I Kings 19:6 I Chronicles 28:20 II  
Chronicles 32:7 Job 11:15 Psalm 23:4 Psalm 64:4 Psalm 118:6 Proverbs 3:25 Isaiah 10:24 Isaiah 35:4 37:6 Isaiah  
41:14 Isaiah 42:11 Isaiah 43:1 Isaiah 43:5 Isaiah 54:4 Isaiah 54:14 Jeremiah 1:8 30:10 Jeremiah 46:27 Jeremiah 46:28  
3:9 Daniel 10:12 Daniel 10:19 Joel 2:21 Joel 2:22 Zephaniah 3:16 Haggai 2:5 Zechariah 8:12 Zechariah 8:15 Matthew  
1:20 Matthew 10:26 Matthew 10:28 Matthew 10:31 Matthew 14:27 Matthew 17:7 Matthew 28:5 Matthew 28:10  
Mark 5:36 Mark 6:50 Luke 1:13 Luke 1:30 Luke 2:10 Luke 5:10 Luke 8:50 Luke 12:4 Luke 12:7 Luke 12:32 John 6:20  
John 12:15 Acts 18:9 Acts 27:24 II Timothy 1:7 Hebrews 13:6 Revelation 1:17 Revelation 2:10

**FEAR  
NOT**

## Discussion Questions:

1. What fears get triggered most for you as you consume media, entertainment, and surf the internet? How do you think these things impact your levels of fear and feelings of threat?
2. First, think about how much you fear losing your possessions, your job, or your health. Then think about how much you fear being unloving, inhospitable, selfish, or impatient. Which do you fear more and why?
3. How do you think the biblical idea of wisdom is similar to the way the world understands the word and how might it be different? Why?
4. Why is there so much concern in the book of Proverbs over the practical wisdom of being successful in life?
5. Why do you think emotional intelligence is better indicator of making it in the world than I.Q.?
6. Do you think there a difference between being smart and being wise? Why or why not?
7. How would you help a friend understand the biblical teaching of "the fear of the LORD"?
8. Can a person be wise if they don't fear the LORD? Why or why not?
9. How can the fear of the Lord help us put fear in its proper place?
10. What are some of the practical challenges of applying this wisdom so that we can face with courage and strength?
11. What stood out to and touched you from the teaching on Proverbs and the "
12. How can we pray and encourage one another to live more faith and less by fear of the LORD?