

Why Won't You Listen?

Text: Proverbs 1:20-33

Introduction

Previously, it was discovered that all **learning begins with God** (1:7). It was also seen that real knowledge will cause you to honor your parents (1:8-9), and avoid the wrong friends (1:10-19).

We now come to the invitation. As with any good sermon, there will always be an invitation to apply what you have heard and learned. The Holy Spirit extends this invitation through the personification of wisdom. Wisdom is given a personality. This is the first of many such instances found throughout the Book of Proverbs. Of course, since wisdom comes from God (1:7; 9:10), then to reject wisdom is the same as rejecting God. Thus, it is fitting that wisdom be personified.

I. Wisdom's Invitation (vv. 20-23; cf. 9:1-12).

A. Her cry (vv. 20-21).

1. _____ (“*crieth*”).
2. _____ (i.e., in the streets, in the gates, etc.).

B. Her call (vv. 22-23).

1. To the “*simple*.” (i.e., naive; cf. v.4).
 - The simple are* _____ (19:25; 21:11)
 - The simple are* _____ (14:15; 22:3; 27:12).
2. To the “*scorner*.” (i.e., “to scorn, talk arrogantly; to mock”).
 - Scorners are* _____ (9:8; 13:1; 14:6).
 - Scorners are* _____ (15:12; 22:10; 24:9).
3. To the “*fool*.” (i.e., foolish; one who despises wisdom).
 - The fool is* _____ (1:22).
 - The fool is* _____ (14:3).
 - The fool is* _____ (27:22).

II. Wisdom's Rejection (vv. 24-25).

Wisdom begins her explanation concerning why she ignores the pleas of man. She says, "*I have called...I have stretched out my hand.*" Yet, mankind has spurned her offer of help. Man has...

- A. _____ her works (v.24).
1. She offered her _____ ("*I have called*").
 2. She offered her _____ ("*I have stretched out my hand*").
- B. _____ her words (v.25).
1. _____ her invitation ("*set at nought all my counsel*").
 2. _____ her correction ("*would none of my reproof*").

III. Wisdom's Reaction (vv. 26-33).

Wisdom will...

- A. _____ to listen (vv. 26-30).
1. _____ at their calamity (v.26a).
 2. _____ their concerns (i.e., fear; vv. 26b-27)
 3. _____ their calls (v.28).

—Reason: They made the wrong choice (vv. 29-30).

- B. _____ the consequences (vv. 31-32).
1. _____ & reaping (v.31).

Life Principle #3: _____ (1:31)

2. _____ & destructing (v.32).

—Reason: They are reaping what they _____ .