

Discipleship Group Weekly Resources

Week 2 Passage: Proverbs 3:13-35

Big Thought: (read Proverbs 3:13-35 first)

“Better than gold or silver.” Wisdom is the superior treasure above anything else. Wisdom is worth more than any possession on earth. God created the world by wisdom; therefore, wisdom will lead to life. We believe in wisdom personified; Jesus. Seeking Jesus will lead to wisdom, and wisdom brings physical, spiritual and relational blessings.

In the garden of Eden, we see that when humans reach out and *take*, attempting to define good and evil on their own, striving for wisdom on their own terms; the result is separation from God (death, destruction), not life like they had been promised by the snake. The alternative then is to follow God’s lead, as was intended, be still and listen, define good and evil as God defines it, strive to understand God’s wisdom. The result of this path is life. When encountering wisdom literature in the Bible, you are left with a choice: choose wisdom as humans define it or choose wisdom as God defines it. One leads to life and the fruits of the Spirit in your life, the other to death and chaos and brokenness. One is more precious than gold or silver, the other makes promises it can’t keep. (Read Proverbs 3:7-8)

The way that Jesus explains this is found in Matthew 7:24-27 at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus says, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

The one who seeks wisdom in Jesus finds life. But the one who seeks wisdom without Jesus finds destruction. Jesus is not just talking about ultimate destruction, but I think he is speaking of the brokenness and pain and hurt we can cause when we choose wisdom on our own terms. Choose true wisdom; choose Jesus.

4 Questions:

1. Why are we so prone to do what is wise in our own eyes?
2. What is a piece of “wisdom” from the world that does not fall within true wisdom (Jesus)?
3. What are some ways you have strived for wisdom on your own terms?
4. What are some practices we can implement to become men who follow true wisdom that leads to life?