

Discipleship Group Weekly Resources

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9 Passage: Proverbs 16:18-20

Big Thought:

All of us have been in circumstances where God's word says THIS, but our hearts say THAT. In those times, our hearts can often sound more sure, convincing, and emphatic. It's the prevailing idea of culture, "Follow your heart and you won't go wrong."

Such counsel is foolish. One preacher of yore said, "The heart is the den of evil." Left to our own devices, we choose wrongly because we have sinful hearts. Our perspective is skewed. Proverbs reveals that wisdom and foolishness often boil down to two heart issues: humility and pride (16:18-20). The world lures us to pride and self-exaltation, but Scripture speaks to the danger of these actions (Proverbs 28:26). Our hearts are sinful (Proverbs 20:9). God's wisdom will most always clash with the wisdom of the world.

- Worldly wisdom says, "Hoard and hold on to all you have."
Godly wisdom says, "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want." Proverbs 11:24
- Worldly wisdom says, "Take joy in your enemy's misfortunes."
Godly wisdom says, "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles." Proverbs 24:17
- Worldly wisdom says, "Money will make you happy, get all you can."
Godly wisdom says, "Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf." Proverbs 11:28
- Worldly wisdom says, "Promote yourself, look out for #1."
Godly wisdom says, "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips." Proverbs 27:2

One of the themes of Proverbs is that wisdom is found in trusting God, not yourself. To be wise, we must humbly submit to God and follow His word. In Proverbs 30:1-6, Agur admits that he is not wise—since wisdom starts with owning up to your ignorance—and that wisdom lies in The Son and in God's word. God's word shapes our worldview and corrects our skewed perspectives. Trusting God will always lead to blessings (Proverbs 28:14).

4 Questions:

- What are some examples from culture or anecdotally from your own life that illustrate the culture's advice to follow your heart in order to make right decisions in daily life? What do you think is the driving force behind that counsel?
- Why is it a sign of pride to "follow your heart?"
- How can pride lead to ruin and heartache?
- Agree or disagree: "When I find God and myself agreeing on so many things about my life and actions, I can be certain that the Lord is on mute, and my volume is maxed out."