

POWER HOUR

9/6/2026

Lesson Text:
Proverbs 1:20-33

Related Scriptures:
Proverbs 5:7-14; 8:1-36; 9:1-12;
Isaiah 3:9-15; Jeremiah 6:16-21

“WISDOM CALLS THE FOOLISH”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square.

Proverbs 1:20 NLT

Time: between 971 and 931 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

Proverbs 1:20-33 NLT

²⁰ Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square. ²¹ She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate: ²² “How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge? ²³ Come and listen to my counsel. I’ll share my heart with you and make you wise. ²⁴ “I called you so often, but you wouldn’t come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. ²⁵ You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered. ²⁶ So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you— ²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you. ²⁸ “When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me. ²⁹ For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord. ³⁰ They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. ³¹ Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes. ³² For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency. ³³ But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm.”

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday’s lesson begins with the difference between God’s wisdom and

human wisdom. The world may identify a wise person as one who has insight in addition to knowledge. We Christians, however, know that the truly wise person is one who follows God's teachings and is committed to obeying Him. A wise person seeks to increase his learning and understanding (Proverbs 1:5) and fears the Lord, as stated in Proverbs 1:7: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Many voices call for our attention. These voices come from people or groups that want us to hear their message. The voices can be soft or shrill. Their messages might be neutral or even helpful. At other times their messages are destructive. Our Bible passage today is Proverbs 1:20-33, wherein we find another voice trying to get our attention—the voice of wisdom. Let us make sure this voice drowns out all other voices.

Additional Scripture Readings

Wisdom Calls. Proverbs 8:1-11.

The Blessings of Wisdom. Proverbs 8:32-36

The offer of Wisdom. Proverbs 9:1-12.

Flee Sin. Proverbs 5:7-14.

Blessing or Woe. Isaiah 3:9-15.

The Crossroads. Jeremiah 6:16-21.

Turn to Wisdom. Proverbs 1:20-33.

1. The urgency of wisdom's call (Proverbs 1:20-23) Proverbs 1:20 begins with the words "Wisdom crieth without." Here Solomon used the literary device of personification, attributing human characteristics to inanimate objects or ideas. Solomon pictured wisdom as a woman ("she uttereth her voice") (Proverbs 3:15-18; 4:6-9).

Believers recognize that the personified wisdom of Proverbs 1 points us to the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the true source of wisdom and who is "made unto us wisdom" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

Solomon further stated that wisdom speaks, as seen in such words and phrases as "crieth," "make known my words to you," and "pour out my spirit unto you." This draws attention to the urgent and obvious message wisdom conveys to people.

Wisdom's message should be apparent to anyone who is paying attention.

Solomon identified several places where wisdom speaks—outside, in the streets, in the chief place of concourse (a crowded place of business), at the city gates, and in the city itself (Proverbs 1:20-21). These places were prominent and public, showing again the urgency of wisdom getting her message to people.

Wisdom further “crieth” to three kinds of people—simpletons, who “love simplicity;” scorers, who “delight in their scorning;” and fools, who “hate knowledge” (vs. 22).

She calls to them all. She does not whisper; she urgently cries out loudly everywhere she can and even stretches out her hand (vs. 24). Wisdom's goal is to “turn [people] at [her] reproof” (vs. 23). She calls people to turn from their foolish ways—from their simplicity, their scorn, and their hatred of knowledge (vs. 22)—and follow the way of wisdom.

The word “reproof” is key in this passage, appearing in verses 23, 25, and 30. One of the purposes of wisdom is to reprove or rebuke people when they are foolish.

This function reminds us of 2 Timothy 3:16, wherein we read that the inspired Word is “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Knowing and following the Word will make us wise for salvation (vs. 15) and for doing good works (vs. 17) and will rebuke us when we stray into the way of the fool.

2. The consequences of ignoring wisdom's call (Proverbs 1:24-32). Despite wisdom's urgent appeal, foolish people still refuse to listen (vss. 24-25).

They hate knowledge, do not fear the Lord, ignore wisdom's counsel, and despise reproof (vss. 29-30). All these actions bring severe consequences—ridicule, calamity, fear, desolation, destruction, distress, anguish, and silence when they do seek help (vss. 26-28).

Further, ignoring wisdom's appeals will cause the foolish ones to suffer the consequences of their own actions (Proverbs 1:31; Galatians 6:7-8). They will suffer death and destruction (Proverbs 1:32).

Such people need to heed the urgent call of wisdom so that they can avoid

these dire consequences.

3. The blessings of following wisdom's call (Proverbs 1:33). Solomon concluded his instruction by pointing out the blessings that come from heeding wisdom's call. The wise will "dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

Wise people are not free from difficulties. In fact, Scripture often speaks to instances when godly people will face trials of many kinds. But they have the promise of protection and peace as they look to Jesus Christ, the true source of wisdom. They can ask Him for wisdom when facing life's challenges (James 1:5).

PRACTICAL POINTS

Wisdom can be found almost anywhere by those who are willing to listen (Proverbs 1:20-21).

We should be concerned about those who make unwise decisions (vss. 22-23).

We should not ignore wise advice from others (vss. 24-25).

Destruction often comes unexpectedly, like a whirlwind (vss. 26-27).

If one ignores the way of wisdom, one may have no help in times of trouble (vss. 28-30).

Foolish living often comes to a fitting conclusion (vs. 31).

Living for ease and prosperity leads to downfall, unlike the way of wisdom (vss. 32-33).

CONCLUSION

Wisdom's call is not hidden from us. Our responsibility is to listen to the call (Proverbs 1:24).

Where do we find wisdom's call today? We find it in the Scriptures. As we read, aided by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, we can know true wisdom. Scripture does not deal directly with every situation we face, but we do find scriptural principles to give us wisdom for any situation. Have you been neglecting the Scriptures? If so, you are in danger of succumbing to the way of the fool. Spend time in the Word every day, and ask the Lord to give you wisdom.

Next week, we will look at ***Psalms 49:1-20 'The Folly of Trusting in Riches;'*** to find God's wisdom regarding wealth and riches. *Union Gospel Press, LifeStone*