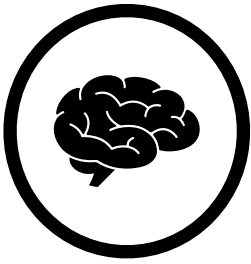


SERMON NOTES

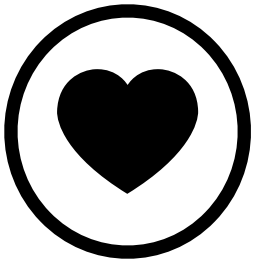
23rd July 2023 | God and wisdom | Proverbs 4: 20 - 27



Exploring the text

Questions for reflection:

1. Why does the father encourage his children to listen / pay attention to his instruction?
2. According to 4:10 - 13, what benefits are there in receiving and keeping to wise instruction?
3. What does 4:14-17 say about the path of the wicked and their way of life?
4. Outline the contrast in 4:18-19.
5. What steps can we take in our discipleship to keep the words in our sight and heart (4:20-21)?
6. What does 4:23 mean? And how can we guard our hearts?
7. How is the life of Jesus reflected in Proverbs 4?



Connecting our hearts

Questions for reflection:

1. Stu began by reflecting on Solomon's request for wisdom. Take a moment to read 1 Kings 3 - what stands out to you from this passage?
2. If God made you the offer, 'ask for whatever you want me to give you', how would you respond (honestly)?
3. Stu gave various definitions of wisdom, which of the following two do you prefer. (1) 'the ability to discern right choices' or (2) 'the power to see, the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it'?
4. Stu offered the following alternative: wisdom is knowing stuff, reading the room and the courage to act. Would you agree / disagree and why?
5. Stu made the point that the wisest choice we will ever make is following Jesus. Is this a one time decision or a daily choice?
6. Stu highlighted the tragedy of Solomon's life - what was this and in what way does it serve as warning for us?



Living it out

Questions for reflection:

1. Stu mentioned four ways we can grow in wisdom: ask for it, immerse ourselves in God's Word, walk with wise people and pursue and treasure wisdom. Which one of these do you need to work on?
2. Reflect on the current path of your life - where is this path taking you?
3. Spend time asking God for wisdom and meditating on James 3:17-18.

Use the below space to write you own prayer of response