
Sermon Text Discussion 4/2/17

Proverbs 8 – “The Blessings of Lady Wisdom” by Eric Bobbitt

Overview

Wisdom is exceedingly desirable and surprisingly available. This passage presents a personification of wisdom as a woman calling out in the public square, exhorting everyone to listen to her and find true life. Wisdom is calling. Are we listening?

- 1) Wisdom's call (8:1-3)
- 2) Wisdom's character (8:4-11)
- 3) Wisdom's rewards (8:12-21)
- 4) Wisdom's role in creation (8:22-31)
- 5) Wisdom's appeal (8:32-36)

In the end, wisdom is a matter of life and death (8:35-36). Thankfully, Jesus can give us life because he is the ultimate personification of wisdom. Indeed, he is the very embodiment of God's wisdom. Our pursuit of wisdom must bring us to him.

Quotations

“One [of the merchants of Vanity Fair] chanced mockingly, beholding the carriages of [Christian and Faithful] to say unto them, ‘What will ye, buy?’ but they, looking gravely upon him, said, ‘We buy the truth.’” -John Bunyan from *Pilgrim's Progress*

“Surrender don't come natural to me
I'd rather fight you for something
I don't really want

Than to take what you give that I need” - Rich Mullins, from “Hold Me Jesus”

Understanding & Application

- 1) Where does wisdom fit in the calculus of what you value most? What are you most likely to value more than wisdom?
- 2) Proverbs 8:1-3 shows that wisdom is not limited to the domestic or religious domains, but is available and relevant for the public square. What is one way you could more fully integrate wisdom into your vocation, community service, or political involvement?
- 3) Which of wisdom's rewards (v. 12-21) are most compelling to you?
- 4) What differences might there be between a person who finds wisdom beautiful and a person who *only* finds wisdom useful for obtaining other things (like riches)?
- 5) Wisdom recognizes God and his good design for the world and in faith aligns oneself to it. How can the gospel help us recognize God and his good design for the world? How can the gospel help us align ourselves with this design?
- 6) Think of a time when seeking to know and trust Christ actually made you a wiser person. How did that work?