**Foolproof**

**Wisdom of the Wealthy (Part II)- Week #10**

**Small Group Notes**

**March 4 and 7, 2021**

**Introduction:**

Let’s do a quick review of what we discussed last week:

* **The Wise Have Redefined Wealth**: We see the value of relationships and eternal investments over the temporal pursuits
* **The Wise Have the Discipline to Wait:** We see that we do not have to look for stuff for my significance.
* **The Wise Avoid “Get Rick” Schemes:** We do not chase fantasies of getting more money quickly, rather we trust in the provision of God
* **The Wise Work with Integrity:** We do not cheat or deceive others in order to gain money, rather we let our godly character shine.

For today’s discussion we are picking up with the final discussion in our study of Proverbs. Consider the different topics we have discussed: overcoming fear, dealing with pride, purity, how we talk, discipline, friendship, work, and money.

**Which one of these topics has been the most impactful to you through the series? Why?**

**How has your life changed (or is changing) as a result of this series?**

Let’s begin our final discussion in Proverbs.

**Discuss:**

1. The Wise Live with Radical Generosity!

* Read Proverbs 19:17; Psalms 50:10; Proverbs 11:24-26
* Generosity reflects the heart of our King: read 2 Corinthians 8:9

Explain: A great paradox exists in that the one who gives freely also grows all the richer. We might think the one who gives much has less, but really it is not so . In the end the one who withholds what is right is the one who suffers want. Clearly Solomon believed that helping those in need is the right thing to do and the things that he received were not based on gaining more but in gratitude and recognition of God’s blessing.

Ask:

**What paradox about giving is described in Proverbs 11:24-26? When have you seen this true in your own life?**

**What is hindering me from radical generosity? How can beginning with the practical generosity lead to the radical?**

**In what ways can a person who gives generously be enriched?**

2. The Wise Live Like Stewards and Sleep Like Babies!

* Read Proverbs 3:9-10
* Giving first to God says, “God owns it all and is the source of it all”
* Giving first to God says I trust Him with it all

Explain: Proverbs 3:9-10 presents an if-then relationship; not a magical formula. Certainly, those who honor God in the way they use their possessions and money will discover how to meet their needs. However, even ones with perfect integrity (see Job 1:12-22) may experience personal or financial loss. The key to remember is to trust God with the first-fruits of our money, i.e. the tithe. When we see the tithe not as a burden but as an act of worship then our focus becomes not on the amount but on the One that we are giving it to!

Ask:

**What is the relationship between our stress about money and trusting the Lord?**

**Martin Luther is quoted as saying, “I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all: but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.” How have you seen this principle demonstrated in your life?**

**In what ways have you seen that giving the first-fruits (tithing) has strengthened your faith?**

3. The Wise Always Invests in the Right Currency

* Read Proverbs 3:5-6
* The wise know that faith in the currency of God’s kingdom
* The wise know that faith is in a Person, not in our performance
* The wise know that true faith is not diversified
* The wise know that God’s truth trumps our thinking.
* The wise make Jesus their first ask and constant aim
* The wise know that our “treasure” gives away the condition of our heart (Read Matthew 6:24)

Explain: The command to trust God with all your heart means that the total personality is to be committed to God’s care, although it emphasizes the mind and heart (choices). The commitment of the heart to God means that all the beliefs and decisions of life are to be submitted to Him, even in our finances.

Ask:

**What three items did the author of Proverbs 3:5-6 suggest would improve a person’s relationship with God? What would be the result if believers committed themselves to this type of living?**

**What does it mean for a believer to make eternal investments? What is the challenge in trusting the Lord with all our hearts?**

**Based on how you live out your faith at work or with your friends, what would others say is your treasure? If it is in anything besides them seeing Jesus, what needs to change?**

**If you had to share one takeaway from today’s discussion, what would it be?**