

Bedford Street Church of Christ ^^^ LBC
Are You Being Wise or Are You Being Foolish?
Summary Handout #1a ~ From the Previous Study
(Chapter 1) Date Distributed: 8/14/22

I am backtracking to provide Summary Notes for Chapter 1. These notes are NOT exhaustive but meant to provide a summary. Summary notes will not be provided for each chapter studied.

Chapter 1 has the prologue (purpose and theme) of the book of Proverbs, 1 speech from Solomon to his son, speech #1, and a message (poem #1) from Lady Wisdom.

The prologue (Proverbs 1:1-8) expresses the purpose of these writings:

For gaining wisdom and discipline, to live a disciplined life, to do what is right, just and fair, to sharpen simple minds, to teach the young how to use discretion, help the wise become wiser, to better understand parables, proverbs, sayings & riddles.

The theme of Proverbs is capsulized in 1:7 *“The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and understanding.”*

Repeating words or themes in this chapter:

wisdom, discipline, understanding, insight, discipline, prudence, knowledge, discretion, listen. What happens when you pay attention and obey and what happens when you don't pay attention and disobey-behavior and consequences.

Pathway language – whether positive or negative – v11 come along with us, v15 do not go along with them, don't set foot on their paths, v16 feet rush to sin.

1 Speech found in 1:8-19

Exhortation:

- Listen to this instruction, do not forsake the teachings. These teachings will add beauty and grace to your life.

Lessons:

- Don't be enticed by people who want to do wrong and want you to join them.
- They may tempt you by saying, we'll give you some of what we steal- DON'T FALL FOR IT.
- People like this set a trap for themselves and fall into it. Even a bird would know better than to let that happen.

Conclusion:

- When you try to get what doesn't belong to you – When you live with mean, negative, and evil intent and take advantage of other people, it comes back to bite you. You live violently, you will die violently. You live hatefully, you die hatefully, hate will come back to you.

In the message of Lady Wisdom (1:20-33), what is her message?

- Wisdom wants to be heard. She is in public places and gateways where lots of people are coming and going—she is crying out. People need to hear what she is saying.
- Her message is to the simple (those easily deceived, gullible, untutored), the mockers (those who poke fun at things, won't listen or receive correction, abusive to those who try to talk sense to them), and the fools (one who does not believe in God).
- You foolish, simple and hard-headed people are not listening to me, Wisdom says. When I tried to correct you, if you had listened, I would have poured wisdom out on you and you would have benefited in unimaginable ways, BUT since you did not listen and you rejected me, there will come a day when bad times hit and hit hard. You will feel like a storm has overtaken you. Then you will call on me BUT it will be too late because you did not listen when I was trying to get your attention earlier.
- You should have chosen to fear the Lord BUT you don't want to have anything to do with that message, you will get what you deserve. This is what you wanted; this is what you will get. You wanted to live any way you wanted-it comes with consequences.
- Not paying attention to wisdom will KILL you.
- IF, however, you listen to me you will live a safe life and will be at ease from the things that people fear who don't live wise lives.

Other important points may have resonated with you as you read the chapter or as you sat in the class and were a part of the discussion. Write them down in this section of the handout or even on the back side. Writing your own personal thoughts on what stood out to you is a great way to lock in valuable insight from each chapter.

Your Memory Verse: 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”