



Today's Message

Date: December 1, 2014
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Listen to the Cry of Wisdom*

Text: Proverbs 1:20–33 (ESV)

²⁰ Wisdom cries aloud in the street,
in the markets she raises her voice;
²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
²² “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
²³ If you turn at my reproof,
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;
I will make my words known to you.
²⁴ Because I have called and you refused to listen,
have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,
²⁵ because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when terror strikes you,
²⁷ when terror strikes you like a storm
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.
²⁹ Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
³⁰ would have none of my counsel
and despised all my reproof,
³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,
and have their fill of their own devices.
³² For the simple are killed by their turning away,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

Introduction: Solomon tells his son a story to teach him about wisdom and folly. In his story, Wisdom preaches a message to the foolish and then explains the point of the message. The story is a powerful plea for the son to choose wisdom, that is, to listen to the Word of God.

I. Introduction: Wisdom speaks for God. 20-21

- A. She speaks publicly.
- B. She speaks passionately.

II. Message: Wisdom preaches and then explains. 22-31

- A. She preaches to the foolish. 22-27
 - 1. She invites the simple: “*I have called you.*” 22-23
 - 2. She rebukes the fool: “*But you would not listen.*” 24-27
- B. She explains the sermon to the son. 28-31
 - 1. She explains their certain calamity: “*They will call and I will not listen.*” 28
 - 2. She explains its cause: “*Choices bring consequences.*” 29-31

III. Conclusion: Consider the end of two paths. 32-33

- A. The path of the fool ends in calamity. 32
- B. The path of the wise leads to security. 33

Today’s take-home truth: Choose wisdom while you still can.