

Family TableTalk

Conversation 44

Get Wisdom, Get God

read

Proverbs 4:1-8

think

Proverbs is one of three examples of Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament, the others being Job and Ecclesiastes. It speaks of the value of wisdom, which is practical, accessible, inherently good and leads us to the heart of God. When we get wisdom, we get God because wisdom comes from God. Proverbs not only entices us to follow this path of righteousness but illustrates that it comes primarily through relationship. A father teaches his son, a mother rejoices over children who listen to her instruction, a family built on the giving and receiving of wisdom is a picture of abundant life - loving, protected, well established and prosperous. Honoring our parents, though they are imperfect, is the only commandment with a promise attached: a long and full life (Ex 20:12)! In the same way, our heavenly father invites us to learn from him and be adopted into his family as his beloved children, even sharing in Christ's inheritance (Rom 8:17)!

Here's an exercise you can try whenever you read through Proverbs. Taking 4:1-8 as an example, replace the word "wisdom" with "God." Notice how this enhances the reading of these verses! Now replace "wisdom" with "Jesus" and read the passage again.

This giant pause has given us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and craft a new normal. Proverbs is a call to stop waiting for God to show up, since he is always present and active, but rather for us to show up.

apply

- What might this "new normal" look like for you?
- How have you been attentive to God's stirrings under these stay at home orders and now as you emerge from lockdown?
- What has been the state of your soul then and today?
- When have you seen the Lord's goodness and protection?

pray

Gracious heavenly father, we thank you for your great love for us. Your words give us hope in times of uncertainty, faith when all we feel is weakness and wisdom as we discern and make decisions moving forward. Thank you for the promise that whoever cries out to you will gain more of you. Help us to be attentive to your wise workings in our lives and to share that wisdom with others.

by Jodi Chung

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