



The June 4, 2020 edition of TruNorth Daily Devotional with Dr Jim Brown:

“Practical Wisdom from the Proverbs”

Proverb 1:15-27 (NLT)

“My child, don’t go along with them! Stay far away from their paths. They rush to commit evil deeds. They hurry to commit murder. If a bird sees a trap being set, it knows to stay away. But these people set an ambush for themselves; they are trying to get themselves killed. Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money; it robs them of life. Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square. She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate: ‘How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge? Come and listen to my counsel. I’ll share my heart with you and make you wise. I called you so often, but you wouldn’t come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered. So, I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you — when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you.’”

Solomon paints a word picture of a bird who is smart enough to stay away from a trap but then he says: ***“But these people set an ambush for themselves; they are trying to get themselves killed.”***

Then Wisdom is personified as “she” who calls out in the open square. Solomon makes it clear that she – Wisdom – is not just for a select few but is available for ALL who will listen.

“Come and listen to my counsel. I’ll share my heart with you and make you wise.”

It seems clear that Wisdom is offering her wisdom to ANYONE who will listen. But sadly today, as in Solomon’s day, many seem to prefer doing what they want to do as opposed to listening to Wisdom and doing it right.

Wisdom then warns those who ignore her wisdom.

Becoming wise starts with TURNING. We sometimes say “repent” – which means to turn away from something and go down another path. Life has shown that some WILL (and become wise) and some won’t (and prefer to do it “my way”).

Apparently there comes a time when wisdom (and God) will say “Enough” and let us suffer the consequences of our actions and our lack of putting God first. I believe this can happen to nations too. (Perhaps we are seeing that in play today?)

Never forget verse 7 of this Proverb: **“the FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”**

Prayer: Lord, help me to NOT try your patience, but to listen to your wise voice. Thank you for offering me the Wisdom of Solomon, who got it all from you. Amen.