

SERMON TITLE:

"Think Before You Act"

TEXT(s):

Proverbs 22:28; 23:10-11;

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Proverbs is a book of Wisdom!

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

What is wisdom?

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Dictionary Definition of Wisdom:

- > accumulated philosophic or scientific learning <knowledge>;
- > ability to discern inner qualities and relationships <insight>;
- > good sense <judgment>;
- > generally accepted belief (conventional wisdom); a wise attitude, belief, or course of action; th teachings of the ancient wise men; synonym <common/good sense>

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Colloquial Definition of Wisdom:

Guidance, advice, counsel that causes physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellness.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Benefits of Wisdom:

4:8: "Exalt her, and she will promote you; she will bring you honor...she will place on your head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory she will deliver to you."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Proverbs 2:1-5

"My Son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your hear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding...then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find knowledge of GOD."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Proverbs 3:1-4:

"My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them upon the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of GOD and man."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Proverbs 4:20-22:

"My Son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Proverbs 5:1-2:

"My Son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and that your lips may keep knowledge."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Proverbs 7:1-3:

"My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

Injunction to Get Wisdom:

4:7: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

How Does One Get Wisdom?

1:7: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

9:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

How Does One Get Wisdom?

James 1:5:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of GOD, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

SERMONIC POINT #1:

Wisdom often time comes in the form of guidance and advice; warnings and warning signs!

SERMONIC POINT #1:

NOTE the "Do Not..." at the beginning of vs. 28.

SERMONIC POINT #1:

"Do Not..." intimates warning against... stipulation against... even prohibition against...

SERMONIC POINT #1:

Somebody else knows something that you should (want) to know or that can be helpful to you...IF WE LISTEN!

SERMONIC POINT #1:

**Parenting
Illustration...children
tend to ask why???**

(...Because I told you so!!!)

SERMONIC POINT #1:

**How do we learn?
Ideally by Listening!
Sadly, through
mistakes!**

SERMONIC POINT #1:

**Elders (older than us) have
lived, erred and learned!**

**They DO NOT want us to
make the same mistake(s)
they did!**

**SERMONIC POINT
#2:**

**"...remove the
ancient landmark..."**

SERMONIC POINT #2:

**Respect THOSE who
and THAT which
preceded you!!!**

**Value their traditions,
rituals, and history!!!**

SERMONIC POINT #2:

**Be mindful of those
things that have come to
us from those who have
gone before us!**

SERMONIC POINT #2:

BEFORE we remove,
alter, belittle, change,
dismiss, disrupt, and/or
disrespect something,
understand and
appreciate it first!

SERMONIC POINT #2:

Pastoral Illustration(s):
...changing order of service;
...changing Dr. Woodson's name
on the church;
...changing church motto;
...changing the pastor's study;
...changing devotion to P&W;

SERMONIC POINT #2:

Biblical Illustration(s): .
....Rev. Satterfield to
Rev. White;
...Rev. White to Rev. Woodson;
...Rev. Woodson to
Rev. Armstrong;

SERMONIC POINT #2:

Biblical Illustration(s):
...Moses changing to Joshua;
...Elijah changing to Elisha;
...Saul changing to David;
...David changing to Solomon;
...Solomon => to Rehoboam;
...Jesus changing to Apostles;

SERMONIC POINT #2:

***Who are our "fathers" and
"mothers?"***

...Mother Laura Steward;
...Deacon & Deaconess Kauffman;
... Deaconess Mary Cheatum;
...Deacon "Pop" Carter;
...Trustee Walter Smith, Sr.;

SERMONIC POINT #2:

**Philosophical and
Managerial**

Theories of Change!

**How one changes a
system is important!**

SERMONIC POINT #2:

Change for change's sake IS NOT GOOD!

Tradition/Ritual for Tradition/Ritual's sake IS NOT GOOD!

SERMONIC POINT #2:

Learn how to walk in the **tension** and **dissonance** of that which came before you and that where GOD is leading you!

SERMONIC POINT #2:

BUT if **ritual and tradition** is fueled and informed by the **fresh anointing and power** of the Holy Spirit, then **GODLY CHANGE** happens and occurs!

SERMONIC POINT #3:

"...which your fathers have set."

SERMONIC POINT #3:

GOD IS **IMMUTABLE**
(that which does not change nor vary)

SERMONIC POINT #3:

GOD is infinite in wisdom, grace and mercy and has reason for action(s)!

SERMONIC POINT #3:

**GOD
does not
want us
to remain static!**

SERMONIC POINT #3:

**The same GOD that gave
wisdom to grandmamma...is
the same GOD that can give
wisdom to me!**

SERMONIC POINT #4:

Proverbs 23:10-11:

**“Do not remove the ancient
landmark, nor enter the
fields of the fatherless; for
their redeemer is mighty;
HE will plead their cause
against you.”**

SERMONIC POINT #4:

**Be careful when you start
changing things and
abusing the elders, seniors,
ancestors, GODLY folk (the
fatherless)!**

SERMONIC POINT #4:

**GOD will...
...protect the innocent;
...feed the hungry;
...clothe the naked;
...fight my battle(s);
...move my mountains;
...make enemies footstools;**

SERMONIC POINT #4:

**As long as I am “fatherless” to
the world and adopted by
GOD!**

**My REDEEMER is mighty!
HE will plead their cause!**

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Learn from the past...value

wisdom! (22:28)

"Ancient" does not mean
invaluable! Change for change's
sake is NOT good! (22:28)

GOD will **protect the innocent!**

(23:11)

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT(S):

The same power GOD gave grandmamma is the same power GOD gives me!
Understand their value, worth, to others around you and to those who came before you;
Rehoboam Story - GOD intended for Rehoboam to inherit the Kingdom of Israel; Jeroboam rulership and administrative leadership;

It will still be up to how my Servant Rehoboam responds!
Many of us want to get into power / authority before we can handle power/authority;
ALL he had to do was to listen to GOD!

All he had to do was listen to the elders, but instead...homeboys, partners, comrades,
Just listen to the wisdom of the elders...he just listened to the
He did not learn from the mistakes of his daddy - he did worse
Listen and learn to those who went before him...

When you are hard-headed and hard-hearted! Don't be surprised when GOD strips things away from you
Wisdom is not age, Wisdom is experience... GOD will give it to you
If I can just listen to the word and wisdom of GOD... will do miraculous and awesome things in our lives;

IMMUTABILITY - fancy theological word! It means that GOD does not change!
I don't have to mess around with

The same GOD...if it worked for grandmamma...it's the same way
Don't mess with the ancient landmarks...learn from the ancient landmarks;
If grandmamma prayed

If it was good enough for grandmamma...it's good enough for me!
The SAME GOD who blessed them...is the same GOD who can bless you!
Chapter 23:10-11: Their redeemer is mighty

Be careful when you start tinkering and changing stuff...GOD said I will step in!
I just have to be a child of GOD...when anybody starts messing with me;
If GOD is for me...he is

MY GOD will fight my battles...make my enemies my footstools;
BE CAREFUL who you mess with...you never know what kind of consequences you might reap!
ANCIENT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT'S NOT FRESH! Some things get better with time...like vintage wine! Their worth increases over time!