

Honour From Wisdom

Scripture: Proverbs 16: 31-32

Date: February 7, 2021

INTRODUCTION

This series combines two important facets of church life. The first is the season of Epiphany where we are reminded of God's light – that we celebrated coming into the world at Christmas – continues to grow in us and illuminate around us.

The second is the emphasis on the book of Proverbs – especially chapter 16. Many see the book of Proverbs as that search for answers filled with short sentences that help define our lives by giving us meaning. These short sentences provide for our lives by giving us purpose of what to do and by giving us passion to do it.

Proverbs as defined by Bible Knowledge Commentary translates the Hebrew word *masal* as Proverb. *Masal* means - "to be like, to be compared with." or a "byword" --- an object lesson for others. As such Proverbs become sayings / statements of wisdom from God for every day living. They are not a rulebook on how to live but a roadmap on how to live.

HIDDEN VALUE

The text today is short – but perhaps not so sweet! It speaks of those with grey hair – those who are aged – have a crown of splendour. But in reality we often displace that wisdom – that sentiment as many people shriek at their first grey hair and then spend years dying it or hiding it . The glory becomes something gory !!

Culture doesn't honour the aged it hides them by distancing the work of the aged into the past and displacing the aging into separate homes.

Max Lucado tells a story of a department store that had price tags attached to the items. One night thieves came and switched tags resulting in cheap items with expensive costs and luxurious items for pennies. When the store opened many items were sold for the wrong price – because no one recognized their full value. No one was sure what was worth what anymore

In our world today many people feel the same sense of confusion. What is seen as valuable often ends up almost as worthless and other parts of life that are seen as insignificant become life changers. During Covid 19 so much of 'normal' has changed that the expectations / values seem to have changed as well.

It's like we're trying on many different hats trying to figure out what our identity / calling / purpose is. For others it's hiding behind the hat so no one can see us as all. It's hard to honour each other when we can't see each other beyond the disguises or diminished value we put on each other.

HOLY VALUE

But into this world – God still is – and Psalm 139 declares God’s intimate knowledge of us. A knowledge of all we do and a knowledge of all are are. Despite the chaos and confusion of who we appear to be – to ourselves and to each other - God sees us as He made us to be. An image that is not lost by the image of the hat or the clothing or the exterior.

In a world uncertain of who it is and how to live it out - God speaks a certainty. A certainty that He is the right way – the right truth – the right life. He speaks a righteousness – a right and correct understanding of how life is to be understood and how it is to be lived out.

Psalm 89: 14 and Psalm 97: 2 declare that righteousness are part of the foundation of who God is. Psalm 97: 6 and Psalm 98: 2 declare that this righteousness is meant to be proclaimed and revealed to His creation – His covenant people.

In addition – God’s revelation and declaration are fulfilled by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The dishonour brought about by the sin and chaos and confusion in our lives is restored, redeemed, revalued by the one who IS righteous and the one who made us righteous as well. 1 John 2: 1 speaks of Jesus as the Righteous One who came to earth and became an atoning sacrifice for our sins thus remedying the dishonour into honourable.

HONOURED VALUE

This amazing life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has the power and the potential to change us – to transform us. From creatures that had no value – or a mixed up value to ones that were adapted into His family. 2 Corinthians 5: 21 declares that Christ’s righteousness is made available to us – through His death and resurrection – by His grace and through our faith.

So we become valuable, we become worthwhile, we become honoured. As such we are entitled not to wear any hat that proclaims part of our lives – rather we are entitled to wear a crown as part of God’s royal family. A crown that is made of precious metals and is a symbol of high status and authority. 2 Timothy 4: 8 declares that we will be able to wear the crown of righteousness not just in this world but in the world yet to come because of our place in God’s Kingdom.

We become honoured to BE children of God and as such we become honoured to live AS children of God. Proverbs 20: 21 speaks of pursuing righteousness finding honour. Our calling in life isn’t just to be righteous but - as Jesus did – live righteously as well.

The text today speaks of living out our righteousness – partially because there’s more – as patient and self-controlled people. Words that would be echoed by Paul in Galatians 5: 21. They become proverbial learnings that reflect the honour that we live with God - with ourselves and with each other.

APPLICATION / CONCLUSION

Honour is defined as giving esteem or value or worth towards something. We've been through Proverbs 16 which we understand are designed to help us honour God as we live for God in the world around us. We began our journey with a hunger for God and moved into an honest understanding of our place before God which lead to a humility under God.

Honour is also defined as living according to a right set of standards or conduct. The honour of wearing a crown of splendor or glory comes as a result of living a righteous life. A righteous life given to us by the grace of Jesus Christ within our lives.

That gives us hope in this world – which is our focus next week !!

AMEN