

Hungry for Wisdom

Scripture: Proverbs 16: 1-9
Date: January 10, 2021

INTRODUCTION

For many – 2020 was a year filled with darkness and the beginnings of this year don't give us much greater hope either. Christmas was a season where we celebrated the coming of the light of God in the world. Epiphany is a season where we celebrate the growing of the light in our world.

Proverbs is a book of sayings and instructions designed to help us live more fully with / in wisdom – God's wisdom. Proverbs 16 will be our guide over the next weeks looking at the areas of light in our darkened view of life.

HUNGRY FOR ANSWERS

PLANS FOUNDED

Just over a week ago we “celebrated” New Year's and often the beginning of a new year is filled with resolutions to improve ourselves and plans of what we want to accomplish over the next 12 months. It's like going into a restaurant and looking at a menu of the things that we want to order.

Proverbs 16 speaks of that image of planning in vs. 1, 3, 9 where we speak of our plans being blessed by God.

PLANS FOILED

Yet the text is clear (vs. 4-6) that despite our planning – there remains Evil in the world that causes sinful results to our plans and even to ourselves. The Evil One is sabotaging God's kingdom work around us – in us and even through us.

PLANS FAILED

Someone mentioned recently with great frustration that we've lost a whole year – unable to meet together, unable to celebrate together. Plans for summer vacations were short changed and plans for celebrations of birthdays, anniversaries, graduations were shuttered aside. Our plans have faltered and failed and Covid 19 has left us in a place of fear, frustration, confusion and chaos

We want answers – like when will the vaccine come and 'save' us or when will we be able to visit family and friends. We are hungry to know - when this is going to end and what will the final cost be to us – financially, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

There's a term – made famous by Snickers candy bar – called HANGRY. It's when you are so hungry you become angry - even if you don't know why you're angry. Many of us are hangry because we've not been able to feed our faith time they way we've planned. We've not been able to feed our family time they way we've planned.

We are hungry for answers! We are hungry for life! It feels like we're ordering from the menu but what you want is no longer available or it's out of season. We are forced to go to Plan B on the menu – but we don't know what that is or if we'll actually like it.

HUNGRY IN ACTION

SUBMIT

Our asking is the first step to understanding God's actions. Proverbs reminds us that God is – in His providence – in charge. Proverbs 16: 1 reminds us that - the lord will give the proper answer to the tongue. A word of truth that God is still on His throne working out His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven – in His time and in His manner.

Proverbs 16: 3, 9 reminds us that - the Lord will establish our steps and that the Lord will establish our plans. The older translation of the NIV spoke of our plans being successful but more recent translations speak of plans being established. This is a better view in that the success (or failure) of the plans are irrelevant. Rather that God will create the plans and God will strengthen the plans and God will sustain the plans.

When we read from the menu and don't know what to order and if it's any good - sometimes we need to ask our server – or the cook !! What the specials are. What the best foods are. We need to trust them because they know better.

COMMIT

Proverbs 16: 3 speaks of our plans – our very selves – not just submitted to God but also committed to Him. That whatever we do – is in alignment with Him. There is a submission / commitment of ourselves to God – first and foremost. Then a submission / commitment of ourselves to living out the plans God has for us

DESIRE

Perhaps our greatest hunger isn't in seeing our plans succeed but in seeing our place succeed. In our lives we feel short changed and wrongly done by. But we're suffering from hanger. We're angry – because we're missing not the success of our plans FROM God but the establishment of our place IN God. We're hungry to come back to church – YES. But ultimately all of us are have a greater hunger to come back to God.

DELIGHT

The question – the invitation is before us – is how hungry are we? There is a menu of opportunities from the recommendations of the cook – the server – the owner. But we are still called to choose to come to the table - to HIS table.

Our response is to Him is a submission is to Him and a commitment is to Him. That affirm that HE is in charge – over Covid and indeed over all of creation. To affirm that the plans are His and to affirm that the people (we) are His too. Our hunger to know why not success is given to us is rather a hunger to know the Saviour who is given to us.