

Erin Coates —The Wise Woman Fearing God
Open Hearts in a Closed World 2021

Introduction: The Pursuit of Wisdom

- Knowledge is the understanding of information about a subject that you get by experience or study.
- Wisdom is the ability to use your knowledge and experience to make good decisions and judgements, or as Solomon says, “an understanding heart to judge God’s people to discern between good and evil.

“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.” —Spurgeon

There will always be two voices calling you: the voice of Wisdom and the voice of folly.

We must heed the voice of wisdom for the glory of God,

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

— Matthew 5:16

Questions for Discussion:

- How do we respond in wisdom to a world that is growing in it’s hostility towards us?
- How do we live a life of Wisdom when even within the church there is a war for truth?
- How do we be women who are set apart from everything that is going on around us, heeding the constant call of wisdom and rejecting the voice of folly?
- Are you pursuing Wisdom?
- What categorizes your life; wisdom or folly?

Point #1. The Wise Woman Fears the Lord

The **wise** woman builds her house,
But the foolish tears it down with her own hands.

— Proverbs 14:1

How do we know the wise woman fears the Lord? Proverbs 9:10.

Two Aspects to fear:

1. terror and dread, this is most often noted for those who are found to be in rebellion to the Lord, Hebrews 10:31 tells us,

“It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

2. It can also mean the fear of reverential awe. It is the fear that grips us when we stand in the presence of the One who is of superior worth and dignity.
 - This fear draws us to God (Isaiah 6:1-9).
 - This fear causes us to hate sin (1 Peter 1:17-19; Exodus 20:20).
 - This fear is a delight (Isaiah 11:2-3).
 - This fear fuels our intimacy with Christ (Psalm 27:4).
 - This fear causes the wise woman to cling to the Word of God and make it her sole and final authority (Colossians 2:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Questions for discussion (or as heart-check)

- Is this the kind of fear that marks your life?
- Does fear drive you into the presence of the Lord?
- Does this fear keep you from sinning?
- Are there areas you see clearly where you are not fearing the LORD? What will you do to change?
- Are you seeking a proper view of His glory and beauty through His Word by His Spirit?
- Are you daily seeking to grow in fear through studying God through His Word or are you consumed with with culture and fearful of what is around you?

- Does your fear leave you in the deepest awe and wonder of the Triune God that would ever dare set His affections on someone like you? If you can't answer yes to these questions what better time is there to get on our knees before God and say, like Moses, "Lord show me your Glory!" and ask Him to give you a greater fear as He graciously reveals Himself to you.

Point #2 **The Wise Woman Fashions Her Home**

The **wise** woman builds her house.

Build: Fashions (Genesis 2:22)

Our example of a wise master builder who tenderly fashions her home: The Excellent Wife in Proverbs 31:10-31.

Discussion Questions:

- Are you a woman who builds?
- Are you with tender care fashioning a home where others are being built up?
- Are you building others up in your local church, in both word and an example to follow as you follow Christ?
- Do you pursue wisdom as The Proverbs 31 Woman does?
- Go over the Proverbs 31 woman and pull out her qualities. Do you see any areas you lack? Pray and ask the Spirit to reveal areas He needs to work on.

Point #3 **The Wise Woman Flees Folly**

The foolish tear it down with her own hands.

Because they hated knowledge
And did not choose the fear of the Lord.
"They would not accept my counsel,
They spurned all my reproof."
— Proverbs 1:29-30

Folly in the Book of James

Questions for Discussion:

- What is the contrast between the Wise woman and the woman of folly?

- Go through the Book of James, can you pull out the areas of wisdom and the areas of folly?
- Are any of these qualities present in you?
- Are you seeking as a wise woman to flee this folly at all costs?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your life?
- What do you do if you haven't been fleeing folly?
- You cannot have wisdom apart from Christ, are you assured that you know Him? What do you need to do if you don't know Christ?

Further Study

Susan Heck – With the Master The Book of James

The Forgotten Fear – Al Martin

The Joy of Fearing God – Jerry Bridges

2018 G3 Conference Tom Ascol Session 11 on the Fear of God Sermon

2020 Open Hearts in a Closed World Day 4 Service and Sound Doctrine, Erin Coates