

# THE WISE & THE WITLESS



## **SERMON-TEXT DEVOTIONAL**

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

TEXT | PROVERBS 22:17 - 24:35



#### **SAYING 1:** Read Proverbs 22:17-21

This next section (22:17-24:35) in the book of Proverbs consists of 30 wise sayings. Let's consider five of them this week.

- It is one thing to know wisdom and another thing to apply wisdom and have it ready on our lips (vv 17-18). What prevents us from moving from hearing to doing?
- The proverbs of Solomon are distinguished from other wisdom literature in that they aim to produce trust in the Lord (v 19). How can the proverbs be used in harmful or misguided ways when the aim becomes something else?
- The teacher wants his student to be useful to his master (vv 20-21). How does being useful or doing good to those in authority over us help our Christian witness? (1 Peter 2:13-17)

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication



#### **SAYING 3:** Read Proverbs 22:24-25

This saying is part of a group of sayings discussing wrong ways of increasing one's wealth.

- Before we think of our friend groups and consider which one is hot-tempered and easily angered, let's look in the mirror and ask ourselves if we are hot-tempered or easily angered (v 24).
- o The habits of the ill-tempered are both infectious and lethal (v 25). How has consistent poor behaviour and influence impacted your character development and morals? (Consider Proverbs 13:20)

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication



### SAYING 13: Read Proverbs 23:13-14

This next section of sayings highlights the role of discipline in our development.

- You are likely familiar with this proverb. How is it often applied in today's context?
- We all need discipline in order to mature and grow. How does Hebrews 12:4-11 deepen our understanding of this proverb?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication



#### SAYING 17: Read Proverbs 23:22-25

This saying helps us consider the delight a father and mother have when they watch their kids grow up and walk in obedience.

- o Christians are to honour their Fathers and their Mothers (v 22). What does that look like for you?
- No price is too high to not buy this wisdom and no offer is too grand to consider selling it (v 23). Here is yet another example where we are reminded of the value of wisdom.
- o God the Father delighted in his Son Jesus Christ and this is made evident at his baptism (Matthew 3:16-17). How does it feel to know that God delights in you because of your faith in his son (vv 24-25)?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication



#### SAYING 29: Read Proverbs 24:19-20

This saying reminds us that the ultimate future of the wicked is not one of blessing.

- o This is such simple advice, but so hard to follow (v 19). Who or what are you afraid of?
- Scripture is clear that God will make everything right (v 20). Read Romans 12:17-19. How is this good news and an encouragement for us in the face of evil?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication