

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore — October 6, 2019
“Four Pillars: What We Value As A Church” (Part 1: Wisdom)

Welcome/Introduction

- **QUESTION:** When an object is given ‘value’, what does that do to that object, and what is our response to the attributed value?
 - It gives the object worth, appeal, and immediate connectivity to the buyer
 - Our response is one of two options
 - We purchase the object because we believe it has value to us and is worth the price.
 - We do not purchase the object because we feel it’s overpriced or is something we don’t feel we want or need in our life.
 - Ultimately, what determines an object’s value is what we as the consumers are willing to pay for it (law of supply and demand)
 - The paradox of value (water vs. diamonds)
 - The apparent contradiction that, although water is on the whole more useful, in terms of survival, than diamonds, diamonds command a higher price in the market.
 - Objects that are unique/one of a kind will tend to have more value if demand determines that value.
 - Objects that are readily available (need or want), tend to have a decreased value.
 - **Technology:** the law of “I gotta have it NOW!”
 - If they would just wait for the market to be saturated with the latest gadget, prices would drop, and they’d get the exact same gadget at a decreased price.
 - Moral of the story
 - Jesus paid the ultimate price so that He could have a relationship with you!
 - What does that say about your ‘value’ to Him?!
 - If you were worth the price of Jesus dying on the cross, then that requires a definitive response from us, doesn’t it?
 - We’re no longer talking about supply and demand, and our love-hate relationship with inanimate objects.
 - We’re talking about relational value: heart, mind, and soul value.
 - Here is what we need to ask ourselves: If we’re worth that much to Him, what is He worth to us?
- God has given us 4 ‘pillars’ or values as a church.
 - Consider ancient temples
 - The foundation had to be solid (Jesus is our chief cornerstone; **Ephesians 2:20**)

- The pillars placed on that foundation need to be strong enough to hold up the structure and protect everything and everyone underneath it's covering.
- Wisdom, Humility, Love, and Justice
- Everything we do as a church (ministry, program, events, etc.) will be filtered through these values.

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 2:1-6 ESV

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,
 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;
 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Reflection (1-2 minutes)

What is wisdom? How it is set apart from information and knowledge?

- **Information:** facts provided or learned about something or someone.
- **Knowledge:** what is known in a particular field or in total; facts and information...true, justified belief; certain understanding, as opposed to opinion.
- **Wisdom:** the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment.

Verse 1

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,

- "Receive" — to take and carry with you (ie. wide receiver)
 - Same word used in Genesis 2:21 when God *took* a rib from Adam and formed Eve.
 - "...and while he slept **took** one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh."
 - God's is asking us to receive or 'take' His wisdom, carry it with us, and make it a part of who we are, so that we are never without it.
- "Treasure" — hide, cherished, protected
 - **Psalm 119:9-11 NIV**, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
 - **Psalm 37:31**, "The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip."

- The thing that a person values most highly (what he treasures), inevitably occupies the center of his or her heart.
 - What you value is what you pursue
 - Honor, respect, position, status, awards, etc.
 - **Matthew 6:19-21**, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
 - **Matthew 12:34-35**, “...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks...The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”

Verse 2

2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;

- “Making your ear attentive...” — listen carefully, pay attention.
 - **Matthew 13:9**, “He who has ears, let him hear.”
- “Inclining your heart” — stretch out or extend
 - How much of your heart are you giving to learn from the Lord?
 - What does it mean when someone describes somebody as having “all heart”?
 - They give everything despite limitations, skills, obstacles. They dig down deep to pursue their goal.

Verse 3

3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,

- “Call out for insight and raise your voice — cry, utter a loud sound for help
 - To ask sincerely
 - **James 1:5**, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”
 - **Matthew 7:7**, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Verse 4

4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,

- “If you seek” — not just to find, but to secure
 - This is not just a game of hide and seek.
- “Search for it as hidden treasures”

- **Matthew 13:44**, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”
 - The return on his investment was worth more than anything he could attain here.
 - Jesus with a larger teddy bear behind his back.
- **Isaiah 55:6**, “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;”

Verse 5

4 **if** you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 **then** you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

- **LASTWEEK:** the ‘because-therefore’ relationship as it relates to the gospel and salvation.
 - When it comes to seeking and understanding the wisdom of God, it’s related to an ‘if-then’ process.
- “Then you will understand”...understand what??
 - Fear of the Lord = Reverence and Awe
 - Paul David Tripp (*Dangerous Calling*)
 - “...every human being has been hardwired by God to live in daily awe of him...it should be the thing that in some way motivates everything I do and say. Awe of God should be the reason I desire what I desire. Awe of God should be the reason I treat my wife the way I do and parent my children in the manner I do. It should be the reason I function the way I do at my job or handle my finances the way I do. It should structure the way I think about physical possession and personal position and power. Awe of God should shape and motivate my relationship with my extended family and neighbors. Awe of God should give direction to the way I live as a citizen of the wider community. It should form the way that I think about myself and my expectations of others. Awe of God should lift me out of my darkest moments of discouragement and be the source of my most exuberant celebrations. Awe of God should make me more self-aware and more mournful of my sin while it makes me more patient with and tender toward the weakness of others. It should give me courage I would have no other way and wisdom to know when I am out of my league. Awe of God is meant to rule every domain of my existence.”
 - **Proverbs 1:7**, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
 - Knowledge of God = Intimacy

- The more and more you get to know someone, the more and more you will desire and love them; not in a sexual way, but rather in ‘agape’ love that God has for us.

Verse 6

6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

- “Lord gives wisdom” — there is only one sources for true wisdom.
 - His word, which we have in front of us now, and have access to anytime.
 - You are never without excuse for seeking the Lord and gaining more of His wisdom for any circumstance!
 - John Eadie, “Wisdom results from penetration into this knowledge. Knowledge is the study, and wisdom its fruit.”

Application: Why biblical wisdom needs to go beyond a simple devotional and a Sunday sermon.

- **Colossians 2:2-4**, “**2** that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4** I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments [enticing words]...”
 - What is the purpose of establishing ourselves in the knowledge and understanding of God’s Word?
 - It reveals everything about Jesus Christ, and He is what we are to pursue daily!
 - **Warning: Verse 4 (this is why we need God’s wisdom)**
- **Colossians 2:6-8**, “**6** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. **8** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”
 - We let our heart, mind, and soul take root in the Word of God.
 - We then build our daily lives upon that foundation.
 - Habitual living
 - Jesus attended the synagogue as was his custom (**Luke 4:16**)
 - Jesus prayed as was his custom (**Luke 22:39**)
 - Jesus taught others as was his custom (**Mark 10:1**)
 - **Warning: Verse 8 (this is why we need God’s wisdom)**

Why is Wisdom one of our 4 pillars/core values at Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore?

- We believe that everything we need to know, say, and do to be rooted in the Word of God.
- We believe that our understanding and knowledge of the world around us needs to be viewed from God's perspective.
- It is His wisdom that dictates how we love and serve one another.
- **1 John 2:6**, "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."
 - And how do we find out how Jesus walked, loved, and served others?
 - It can only be found in, and through the study of, the living, breathing, Word of God.
 - So that we take the information we gain from the Bible, learn and study it, it then becomes knowledge. And when we begin to apply that knowledge to our life and make decisions and live as Jesus lived, that becomes true wisdom.
 - In that wisdom...in HIM...there is nothing more valuable.`

Closing Prayer
Tithe/Offering