

“Come in with me,” she urges the simple. To those who lack good judgment, she says, “Come, eat my food, and drink the wine I have mixed.” Proverbs 9:4-5 NLT

## lectio // Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is invitational, but there's a catch! Wisdom seeks only those who are SEEKING. Wisdom looks for the curious, the learner, the one who knows they need help - not with gaining more knowledge, but with gaining understanding. The invitation seems so open ended, but wisdom is looking for very specific guests to join her at her party. The wisdom writers, spending years in learning and observation (of course they could because they had the means of leisure learning and time for people watching), make a critical addendum to this “open” invite. “So don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you.” There has to be some natural humility, some need for understanding before people will even accept the invitation. So the mockers, cynics, snobs, and experts need not accept. Of course, they weren't going to anyways! I have spent a lot of time trying to understand, talk with and even correct this group the writers deem as mockers. I can't woo them, convince them, shame them or force them to wisdom and understanding. How can I, they're smarter than me and everyone else on the planet! Why would the “mockers” spend time with inferior people? Let alone hangout at a wisdom party with them. So although they don't lack in knowledge, their ability to really learn about deeper things is stunted by their own arrogance. What can a billionaire learn from a homeless woman? What can an astrophysicist learn from a drug addict? What can a politician learn from a child in foster care? This is where knowledge works against the most intelligent. It locks them away from reality, and makes them believe they know more than our creator.

## oratio

Dad,

Proverbs says it best, “Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.” And that knowledge and wisdom are given to me as I walk with you. I gain understanding and wisdom as I admit my failures, wrongs and bent attitudes. Help me God be a learner, a listener - mostly of your voice, but also from those around me. Help me not associate people's worth and value by their station in life, but by how you see them and see me in our brokenness.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root