

“Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square. She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate:” Proverbs 1:20-21 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom, personified in this woman in Proverbs, BEGS to be heard. She pleads with the simple to listen and live. But after the doing everything she can to get their attention, she delivers dire consequences of ignoring her. It makes me sad to think of all those who won't hear her, “I called you so often, but you wouldn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered.” And the results of NOT listening to her bring life-long problems, “When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me. For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord. They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes. For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.” Wow! That just makes me ache for anyone who's come from hard places or doesn't know any better, or struggles with a lack of wisdom like I did. The stanza ends with hope for those who will listen, “But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm.” Because God broke through my pain and stupidity, and I realized my need for him, I was able to listen to her words and grow in wisdom and favor with God and man.

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Dad,

I will FOREVER be grateful for your invitation to life, love and wisdom. You truly saved me from myself, my past and my family's chaotic cycles and stupidities. I don't know if they ever realized how trapped they were by ignoring your warnings in their youth. I do not say this arrogantly, but with all grateful humility. I also say that wanting to commit to joining with this woman of wisdom to shout in the streets looking for those who would hear and be saved.

contemplatio

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