

August 26th

Proverbs 1:10-19

- 10** *My son, if sinful men entice you,
do not give in to them.*
- 11** *If they say, "Come along with us;
let's lie in wait for innocent blood,
let's ambush some harmless soul;*
- 12** *let's swallow them alive, like the grave,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;*
- 13** *we will get all sorts of valuable things
and fill our houses with plunder;*
- 14** *cast lots with us;
we will all share the loot"—*
- 15** *my son, do not go along with them,
do not set foot on their paths;*
- 16** *for their feet rush into evil,
they are swift to shed blood.*
- 17** *How useless to spread a net
where every bird can see it!*
- 18** *These men lie in wait for their own blood;
they ambush only themselves!*
- 19** *Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain;
it takes away the life of those who get it.*

"The behavior in these verses closely resembles the situation with Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 37-47. The brothers unquestionably lie in wait for 'blood'. The brothers also end up committing an act that only ends up backfiring on them--a point the brothers recognize themselves." Sometimes going with the flow, or group in a head-on rush is not the wisest course of action. It may have consequences that don't manifest until much later, just like with Joseph and his brothers.

O'Dowd, Ryan P. *Proverbs: The Story of God Bible Commentary*, Zondervan Publishing, 2017.

August 27th

Proverbs 1:20-23

- 20** *Out in the open wisdom calls aloud,*

she raises her voice in the public square;

21 *on top of the wall she cries out,*

at the city gate she makes her speech:

22 *“How long will you who are simple love your simple ways?*

How long will mockers delight in mockery

and fools hate knowledge?

23 *Repent at my rebuke!*

Then I will pour out my thoughts to you,

I will make known to you my teachings.

O God of peace, whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly; Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of Wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, Prayer for Guidance.

August 28th

Proverbs 1:24-28

24 *But since you refuse to listen when I call*

and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand,

25 *since you disregard all my advice*

and do not accept my rebuke,

26 *I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;*

I will mock when calamity overtakes you—

27 *when calamity overtakes you like a storm,*

when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,

when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

28 *“Then they will call to me but I will not answer;*

they will look for me but will not find me,

“In these verses, Wisdom spells out the consequences of rejecting her counsel.” She “warns the fools of pending calamity, violence, chaos, and death.” Perhaps the most compelling part of this passage is the laughter of wisdom at her audience. This laughter is not the unsympathetic *schadenfreude* (taking pleasure from another’s misfortune), it is the laughter of triumph over Folly. It illuminates the “deep spirit of defiance, indifference, and anti-authoritarianism that pervade the hearts of the wicked.” Think of it

as wisdom laughing at foolishness in the same way that adults laugh at small children who try to do something simple their way with a comical outcome.

O'Dowd, Ryan P. *Proverbs: The Story of God Bible Commentary*, Zondervan Publishing, 2017.

August 29th

Proverbs 1:29-33

- 29** *since they hated knowledge
and did not choose to fear the Lord.*
- 30** *Since they would not accept my advice
and spurned my rebuke,*
- 31** *they will eat the fruit of their ways
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.*
- 32** *For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;*
- 33** *but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm.”*

Lord, help this not be us today. Help us listen to your word and live it out. When we do fail to follow your ways, thank you for walking with us through the consequences of our actions. Amen

August 30th

Proverbs 2:1-5

- 1** *My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,*
- 2** *turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—*
- 3** *indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,*
- 4** *and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,*
- 5** *then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast committed to thy holy Church the care and nurture of thy children; Enlighten with thy wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of thy truth, they may worship thee and serve thee from generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, Prayer for Religious Education.