

St Martins C3 – September 4th, 2022

Wise Guys – Father's Day

Sermon Notes:

Dads are known to be wise guys. This can be taken one of two different ways.

- 1) Wise guy: a person who makes sarcastic or cheeky remarks to demonstrate their cleverness. That's what dads do.
- 2) Wise guy: a person who makes it a priority to gain wisdom and share that wisdom with the important people in their life.

Dads have the chance to spend time with their kids and to impart wisdom into their life. Finding wisdom and imparting it to the important people in our lives is one of the greatest quests we have.

Read Proverbs 3:15-19

A central concern of our life must be to find wisdom. People often see wisdom as cleverness – having an answer for everything. However, wisdom is more than that.

Ultimately, wisdom is found in discernment. It is knowing the right path and having the courage to walk it. It is the ability to navigate life's tricky waters and use that wisdom to bring life to others.

Wisdom is seen in:

- A lifelong commitment to character
- Placing a high value on the power of words
- Putting a premium on relationships
- Submission to God above all else

Read James 3:13-18; Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 12:18; Proverbs 15:17; Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 3:5-7; James 1:5; Proverbs 4:7

The wisest thing we can do is find wisdom. One way we can grow in wisdom is to see what wisdom we have already downloaded. There are guiding convictions and values that we have underneath the surface and writing them down may help us in refining them, living by them, and sharing them.

We should all try and articulate our inner values and convictions. Try and write down several of them (say ten) to see the foundational wisdom that God has placed in your life.

They don't have to be refined. They might even be scriptures or someone else's words. They could be things that you always say to others or yourself. They are the advice you give to your kids or some variation of something your parent said to you.

Then we need to look for the ways we can use our wisdom to bring life to others. Today is Father's Day so the challenge is for dads to use their wisdom with the next generation.

Fathers, be a wise guy. Continue to make jokes, but also spend time with your kids and bring your wisdom to them. You will help them navigate life and you make an impact on further generations at the same time.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Sermon Reflection:

What stood out to you from this week's message?

Has pursuing wisdom been a major emphasis in your life? Why / why not?

Which of the different ways that wisdom is seen (see the top of page two) are you most committed to?

Which of the different ways that wisdom is seen could you commit to more?

Why is it impossible to find wisdom outside of the Fear of the Lord?

Life Application:

What gems of wisdom did your parents give to you?

How do you feel about creating a list of ten pieces of wisdom that you have? What do you find difficult about this? Why might it be beneficial?

What are your foundational values and convictions? Have every person share one.

Go through your group and share what wisdom you see in others (think of advice they regularly give).

How can you share wisdom with others in your life? If you have kids what does it look like in this relationship?

Monday Devotion: Character

*Better to be poor and honest
than to be dishonest and rich.*

Proverbs 28:6

In this week's devotions, we encourage you to put into practice the challenge from Sunday. Every day our challenge is for you to write down two convictions or values that guide your life. These are the wisdom you live by.

Each day we will give you a category to focus on, however, you may see things that fall outside of these areas that you want to include. Go for it!

Today's category is that of character. One of the central commitments in our life is to increase in character as we come to know God more. We can choose to be people of wisdom every day as we grow to be the people He has called us to be. What does that look like for you?

Guiding Value 1:

Guiding Value 2:

Tuesday Devotion: Work

*Lazy people want much but get little,
but those who work hard will prosper.*

Proverbs 13:4

There are two contrasting errors in our work. The first is laziness. People oftentimes want to get as much as they can out of their workplace with the least possible effort. They have an attitude of entitlement and they look for what they can get rather than what they can give.

The opposite is treating work like an idol. This is where we put our work in the primary place in our life. We give all of ourselves to it and gain our identity from the work we do.

Neither of these is wise. Instead, we need to find ways of working that honours the gifts God has given us and seek to do things with excellence, whilst maintaining a lifestyle of rest and an identity that comes from God, not from our work.

Guiding Value 3:

Guiding Value 4:

Wednesday Devotion: Family

*Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.*

Proverbs 22:6

*The man who finds a wife finds a treasure,
and he receives favour from the Lord.*

Proverbs 22:18

We need to know how we relate to the family in our life. We need to have guides for how we respond to our parents and siblings, to our children and grandchildren. We need to see the values that would help us in our marriage or know how to behave as a single person.

These key relationships require a lot of wisdom. There are so many difficulties in families that we need to navigate. As we look for the values that guide us in this area we can underline that God wants us to be committed with time, heart and energy to the important people in our life.

Guiding Value 5:

Guiding Value 6:

Thursday Devotion: Relationships and Speech

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend
is as sweet as perfume and incense.*

Proverbs 27:9

*Kind words are like honey—
sweet to the soul and healthy for the body*

Proverbs 16:24

We have other relationships in our life beyond our family. We have friends and colleagues, neighbours and church members. Then there are the other people we relate to – shopkeepers, other parents at school, and customer service operators. We need to have guidelines to relate to these people.

Then there is speech. As we have seen, wise people put a strong emphasis on their speech. We need to define our convictions in this area, so we might experience health.

Guiding Value 7:

Guiding Value 8:

Friday Devotion: Focus on God

*Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

Proverbs 1:7

*Commit your actions to the Lord,
and your plans will succeed.*

Proverbs 16:3

The most important relationship we have is with God. He takes the primary place in our life. Our greatest job, and greatest joy, is living in devotion to Him.

The wisest thing we can do is to have a conviction of how to put God in the number one spot in our life.

As we consider how to articulate this today, draw yourself back to God. Consider how you connect with God and how your relationship with Him affects the rest of your life.

Guiding Value 9:

Guiding Value 10:
