

Sacred Pursuit 2: *Living Blindfolded*

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(ME-WE-GOD-YOU-WE) (Orientation-Identification-Illumination-Application-Inspiration)

What do I want them to know? Why do I want them to know it?

What do I want them to do? Why do I want them to do it?

ME:

WE:

(ILL) Brave, Fearless Volunteer needed!! Start w/ blindfold. After 1st bean, they can remove the blindfold and choose again.

- A Wise man would proceed cautiously - A Fool would just grab a handful!!
(sometimes the pleasures of the moment distract from the consequence)
- A Wise man does the necessary sorting to find the right ones!!

Same is true in life – It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between what you should and shouldn't do? Sometimes the right thing isn't so obvious, and it doesn't always seem appealing. And sometimes the wrong thing looks pretty sweet! OR sometimes they look almost the same!

Transition: In week 1 of Sacred Pursuit we talked about the Pursuing Wisdom. **READ Prov. 8:1-4** We found that wisdom is readily available and easily accessible to all. We just have to "Tune In" to the voice of wisdom.

BUT, there's a problem! There is another voice out there competing for our attention!!

READ Prov. 9:13-16

- If both wisdom and folly are 'calling' out to us, then how do we sort truth from folly??

GOD:

The Bible talks about this exact dilemma that many of us will face in making crucial decisions in life. The Bible tells us that sometimes that which is bad for us may appear sweet...

Prov. 5:3-5 “³ For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; ⁴ but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. ⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.” (so how do I recognize wisdom from folly here?)

- Like these Jelly Beans, something that appears sweet on the outside may in fact be quite harmful to your life! We must sort. Otherwise, we're Living Blindfolded!!

(ILL) Living Blindfolded

- Knowing and choosing otherwise (b/c the cons. don't outweigh...);
- Not doing the Math – just not counting the consequence

Prov. 6:24-26 “²⁴ (Wisdom) keeps you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. ²⁵ Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, ²⁶ for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life.”

Big Idea: The Consequences of Tomorrow are Determined by the Choices of Today

Now you may not be ‘*captivated by an adulteress*’ – but you **WILL** face *The Pull of Culture*

- “It’s ok to try anything one time.”
- “But it seems ‘relatively’ harmless”
- YA Draws: lust, porn, masturbation, sex, fantasy, movies, drugs, alcohol, gossip...
- Certain things in culture look appealing enough that we are willing to pay the price

Big Idea: The Consequences of Tomorrow are Determined by the Choices of Today

Look what happens when you choose to ignore wisdom and follow the pull of culture...

READ/Discuss Prov. 1:22-33

YOU:

What will you choose?? Will you choose to heed or disregard the voice of wisdom?

- I bet all of us in this room have made decisions we later regretted.

How do I tell the difference?? How do I know wisdom from folly, if both are shouting at me??

- **Fear God** – Prov. 1:7 “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom”
- **Ask God** – James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously”
- **Consult Others** (godly) – Prov. 24:6 “Safety in the counsel of many advisors”
- **Truth** (internalize God’s Word)
- **Seek God** – Christ is our Wisdom (thru the H.S.) – 1 Cor. 1:24,30

Choose Wisdom once you recognize it! (Don’t be a Fool!!)

READ Deut. 30:19

Choosing Wisdom is Choosing Life! Ignoring Wisdom is Choosing Death. (a path)

WE:

Maybe you’re here tonight and you have ignored wisdom. Maybe you’ve made some decisions that carried consequences you weren’t prepared for. Maybe you have chosen death over life. OR, maybe you gave in to the pleasures of the day in spite of the consequences of tomorrow... In any case, we want to give you an opportunity to respond to the Lord right now. He wants things to be right between you and Him...

Prov. 1:22-33

22 "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? (ignore the obvious wisdom around)

How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? (reject wisdom)

NOTE: 3 addressed here – Simple (naïve), mocker (defiant), fool (morally insensitive)

23 If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you
and made my thoughts known to you. (Wisdom promises to reward us if we listen and respond)

24 But since you rejected me when I called
and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand,

25 since you ignored all my advice
and would not accept my rebuke, (still speaking of wisdom personified)

26 I in turn will laugh at your disaster;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you- (this is not God speaking, but wisdom – “I told you so!”)

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. *(ILL)* it's like trying to get the taste of a Vomit Jelly Bean out
of your mouth once you've already chosen to chew on it for a while!! (there comes a time when it is too late and we
must face the music – the consequence of our decision to ignore wisdom. “Wisdom rejected cannot be reclaimed
after she has withdrawn her invitation.”

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; (the danger of ignoring wisdom)

33 but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm." (The Rewards of Choosing Wisdom)