



Wisdom: More Than You Know
Sermon Discussion Questions – April 23, 2023

Scripture Passages:

Genesis 1:26- Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Genesis 3:5- “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Matthew 3:17 -And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 4:3- The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Proverbs 4:7- Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Hebrews 10:24-25- And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Proverbs 27:4-6- Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy? Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Psalms 141:5- Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it.

Warm Up:

We are gearing up for summer pretty soon. It is getting warmer outside, students are closing in on final assignments, and summer trips are beginning to be planned. What are you looking forward to most this upcoming summer?

Discussion:

1. Pastor Tom opens his message by looking at Genesis 1:26 and Genesis 3:5. He explains how we are made in God's image, meaning we are to resemble God. Then in Genesis 3:5, Satan places doubt in Eve's head about who she is. He corrupts our identity. What are your initial reactions to knowing that we are made in the image of God? Can you think of a moment in your life when Satan twisted your identity? How did you respond to this?
2. Pastor Tom continues to show how the devil attacks identity, even with Jesus. Read Matthew 3:17 and Matthew 4:3. We see from the first verse that God the Father declares Jesus as his beloved Son. This comes before Jesus' ministry even starts. Jesus is declared beloved without having to prove anything to the Father. In the second verse, we see Satan trying to twist this. He says if you are who they say you are, prove it by doing this. Have you ever felt like you had to prove something about yourself to be accepted? If so, why do you think you felt this way?
3. "There is a tension in which all of us find ourselves living."- Pastor Tom
 - The tension is between who God says we are and who the Devil says we are.
 - The tension is between knowing who you are in Christ and forgetting who you are with the Devil.
 - The tension is between living in a truth of God's or living in a lie from Satan.

- The tension is between growing toward Christ-like character or growing in an identity that is nothing like Christ.

Have you felt this tension that Pastor Tom talks about? In what areas of life have you felt or seen this tension?

4. “The difference between hope and despair, emptiness and fulfillment, and sometimes even life and death is not information, but wisdom.” -Pastor Tom.

What differences have you recognized when you have wisdom? How do you think wisdom helps these differences in life?

5. Read Proverbs 27:4-6. Solomon, in this passage, explains how to open rebuke is better than hidden love. He is claiming that it is better to have a friend who honestly corrects you than one who does nothing. He continues to explain in verse 6 about how we can trust wounds from a friend.

Who in your life can you identify as a friend who gives loving rebuke? Why might having a friend who is willing to give correction be more of a true friend than someone who never challenges you? What do you think the balance is between loving people in truth and grace?

6. “Jesus did not come into the world so that we could FEEL better. Jesus came into the world, so that we could BE better.” -Pastor Tom.

What are your initial reactions to this statement? What Scriptures do you know or remember that align with this statement? How might God want to work inside you so that you can reflect more of His character?

7. Read Psalm 141:5. “We have two options related to this piece of wisdom. We can live a life where we are not offended but have a higher risk of living lonely. Or you can find a dangerous friendship where you give someone the power to offend you for your own good.”- Pastor Tom

What hesitations do you have about finding a friend who will correct you? Why might you have these hesitations? How might you step into a friendship like this?

Next Steps:

Allow these questions to help guide your conversation or reflection.

- Who was the person that you thought of that could be a friend of correction to you?
- What might it take for you to give them permission to have this power?
- How might you be this friend to others if they are wanting this type of relationship with you?

- How do you see this relationship being good for growth both for you and them? How might your relationship grow as a result of this friendship?