



Wisdom: More Than You Know
Sermon Discussion Questions – April 30, 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 10:39 -If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Matthew 20:16- “So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.”

Romans 5:20- . . . But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

Romans 6:1–2- Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

Proverbs 1-7- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 9:10- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Psalms 111:10- Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Praise him forever!

Psalms 8- O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. . . 3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers— the moon and the stars you set in place— 4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? 5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority—9 O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

Warm Up:

I want to give you an early welcome into May. It is hard to believe that we are already about halfway through 2023. Remember those goals you set for yourself in January? What things did you want to accomplish this year? Where are you at with those things? How might you reassess now that we are about halfway through 2023?

Discussion:

1. Pastor Tom began this week by reviewing a bit of last week’s sermon. He highlights Genesis 1:26 and says, “As an image bearer, we reflect something of God’s nature and character to the rest of creation.”

What are your initial reactions to this statement? How might living out this truth change how you go about your day to day?

2. Pastor Tom then reminds us of Genesis 3:5, in which we find that we are greedy people. “The motivation was to be like God. I want more, I want more power, I want more resources, I want more control, I want to be God. Greed is an intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth, power, or food.”- Pastor Tom.

How do you see greed clashing with being an image bearer of God? What do you think motivates or factors greed in people?

3. Pastor Tom continues to compare our fallen nature to that of Adam and Even shows how Satan comes alongside our greed to accuse us, resulting in three different responses we fault too.

- I justified it—indignant
 - Well, they had it coming, or why shouldn't I have what I want?
- I rationalized it—victim
 - It's not me, it's the home I grew up in, or it's not their fault they made bad decisions, it's their spouse's fault.
- I minimized it—comparison
 - "I'm not as bad as so and so. At least I am not doing what they are doing. I know a bunch of people doing a whole lot worse."

Have you ever responded in one of these ways before? Are there any other responses you have had when accused? Why do you think we respond in these ways?

4. Read Romans 6:1-2. Pastor Tom explains how we might try to use grace in ways that God did not intend for it to be used. This is what Paul highlights here in Romans 6.

How might God's grace help us to go and sin no more?

5. Read Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, and Psalms 111:10. The common phrase associated with wisdom is the fear of the Lord, as noted in these verses.

What do you think the fear of the Lord means? How might the fear of the Lord lead to wisdom in our everyday lives?

6. Charles Bridges defines the fear of the Lord as such, "It is that affectionate reverence, by which the child of God bends ... humbly and carefully in every exercise of mind and every object of life to his Father's law."

What are your initial reactions to this statement? What do you think this practically looks like?

7. Read Psalm 8. Pastor Tom declares this from Psalm 8, "You see, it is here, in a transcendent view of God—in descending from who God is in revelation in creation, in revelation in our conscience, by his revealing of himself in his Word and finally and savingly in his Son—that we can then begin to unscramble the riddle of our own personal existence. And that, of course, is the wisdom that comes from above."

How have you praised the Lord like the psalmist in Psalm 8? How might wisdom bring you to praise God?

Next Steps:

Allow these questions to help guide your conversation or reflection.

- How might you remind yourself that you are an image bearer of God daily?
- What things motivate your decisions? (Greed, an agenda, being successful, etc.)
- What can you do this week to increase your “fear of God” or reverence for Him?
- How might this “fear of God” lead to wisdom from God?