

True Wisdom is Practical. Practice it!

Matthew 11:7-24

Introduction:

- An oxymoron – contradictory words used together
 1. Sophomore – means a w_____ f_____.
 2. 1 Cor 1:20; 3:19 – God’s wisdom is f_____ to the world and the world’s wisdom is foolishness to God.
- The clash between God’s wisdom and the world’s wisdom
 1. Believers may at times foolishly follow the wisdom of the world.
 2. Jesus stated that true wisdom is justified by her d_____ (Matt 11:20). In other words, true wisdom proves itself to be practical.
 3. Believers must choose what is practical – true wisdom!

True wisdom is not influenced by what people expect (7-15)

- God spoke His wisdom initially through p_____ and lastly through Jesus (Heb 1:1)
 1. Before John the Baptist, the last prophet God sent to His people was M_____.
 2. There was a _____ year gap between Malachi and John the Baptist.
- Jesus points out three prevailing expectations of the crowds concerning John the Baptist. *What did you expect to see?*
 1. *A reed shaken by the wind?* (v. 7)
 - a. The r_____ refers to John
 - 1) A reed is the s_____ of a long plant
 - 2) It was s_____ - reeds were made into writing pens and walking sticks.
 - b. The w_____ refers to the expectations of people.
 - c. The s_____ refers to yielding to those expectations.
 - d. 2 Tim 4:3 prophesies that people will not listen to sound teaching but will accumulate for themselves teachers who t_____ their ears.
 - e. John’s message of wisdom – *r_____*; *r_____ from God’s wrath; God’s judgment is eternal f_____*.
 - 1) When anyone turns from their sinful lifestyle it improves them and s_____.

- 2) Is there a sinful lifestyle you are holding on to?
2. *Someone dressed in soft clothing, like those in kings' palaces?* (v. 8)
- a. John's clothing was a h_____ robe with a l_____ belt (Matt 3:4 - the same as Elijah in 2 Kgs 1:8)
 - b. The scribes and the Pharisees expected important people to be dressed well.
 - 1) They had l_____ robes (Mk 12:38)
 - 2) They widened their pockets that held words of scripture and lengthened their t_____ (Matt 23:5)
 - 3) They loved to be n_____ at banquets, synagogues, and in the market places (Matt 23:6,7)
 - c. Appearances have proved to be d_____.
 - 1) Judging a potential e_____ by his dress.
 - 2) A beautiful woman with a terrible p_____
 - 3) Wisdom looks at what matters – the i_____
3. *A prophet?* (v. 9)
- a. Some just wanted to merely s_____ a prophet, but God sends a prophet to be h_____.
 - b. John was different than all previous prophets. He did not just prophesy but f_____ prophecy.
 - 1) He is the m_____ Malachi 3:1 prophesied would come to prepare the way for the coming Christ (v. 10).
 - 2) He is the Elijah Malachi 4:5 prophesied would come and r_____ people's hearts (v. 14).
 - c. We must h_____ God's wisdom preserved for us by His apostles and prophets (the Bible) and practice it.
 Marriage Raising kids How to live life

True wisdom is not determined by how people respond (16-24)

● Jesus compared that generation to:

1. Children playing a g_____ of wedding and funeral (16-19)
 - a. Wedding
 - 1) John the Baptist's message did not have the tone of a wedding. He came neither eating nor drinking (v. 18).
 - 2) John demanded that people be sorrowful over their sinfulness and r_____.
 - b. Funeral

- 1) Jesus's message did not have the tone of a funeral. He came eating and drinking (v. 19).
 - 2) Since prostitutes, tax collectors, and sinners were being saved, this called for c_____ (e.g. Lk 15:11ff; 19:2-8).
2. Ancient cities who did not repent (20-24)
 - a. If the residents of Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom had witnessed Jesus's miracles they would have r_____ (21,23)
 - b. The residents of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum witnessed Jesus's miracles but did not repent and so will suffer a harsher j_____ (20,22,24)
- Application

1. Most people will not accept the gospel message of salvation
 - a. They would rather believe that they are g_____ enough (Rom 3:10,23; 6:23)
 - b. It is impractical for us to set our own standard. The C_____ must set the standard.
2. Some will water down the gospel message to hold to their sexual lifestyle (e.g. alternate lifestyles, premarital relations).
3. Some will think "little" sins are okay (e.g. dishonesty, gossip).
4. It is not practical to just know about Jesus. You must love Him, follow Him, and obey Him. Whenever you fail, you repent.

Conclusion:

- The expectations of people vary, but God's wisdom remains the s_____ - practice His wisdom.
- The response of people to God's wisdom will not be great because they would rather hold to their f_____, which is always impractical.
- Wisdom is justified by her deeds – true wisdom is practical. Practice it!