

“Listen to the Voice of Wisdom”

A few years ago, Euni and I climbed to the top of the Yosemite Falls in Yosemite National Park. It was a tough course with an 8-mile distance, 4,000 feet of elevation, and a total of 8 hours of walking. So, we had to wear simple hiking clothes, hiking boots, and even use a climbing stick.

There were many other people going up and down the trail at the time, and we saw several teenagers walking around in light casual shoes and even rubber sandals.

On that day, thousands of people walking on the same hiking trail walked in their own clothes and shoes. No one criticized the different formats and manners in which the others decided to hike. But every hiker that day would have experienced different results, either refreshing or painful, depending on whether they acted wisely or not.

I am not talking about the usefulness of mountaineering equipment now. I believe that in our life journey, there is a way to live with the benefits of wisdom. The benefit of this wisdom belongs to those who choose it and listen to its sound.

Maybe it's just not a sound we can hear with our ears. It will be a sound we must hear with the perception of our hearts. Today's Bible scriptures teach us to listen to the voice of true wisdom.

First, let's analyze the scripture from Proverbs today. The various translations of the Bible title this section "The Call of Wisdom." Can a lifeless, inanimate thing such as wisdom call us? The word "wisdom" in the book of Proverbs actually symbolizes Jesus, the wisdom of the Creator.

Colossians 2:3 introduces Jesus as follows: "He is the key to the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge." Isaiah 9:6 describes the Messiah Jesus as the "Wonderful or Wise Counselor." Simply put, today's text tells us that Jesus is calling us to make us wise.

Secondly, let's look at the Scripture from Mark's Gospel and the conversation between Jesus and Peter. Jesus began teaching the disciples about His impending passion and resurrection. This was the path that Jesus, who Peter had just confessed was the Messiah, had to go. Peter recognized Jesus' messiahship but aggressively opposed the suffering that Jesus would undergo.

Peter's reaction is similar to today's generation, which yearns for God's blessings but refuses to follow His teachings. What caused this modern generation's disbelief? Is it because the Creator has lost the power of humans? Are scientific discoveries showing that the Bible is fictitious?

Why does today's world reject God? It is because humans hate God, but ironically, that hatred originated from human sin. In Proverbs 1:23-24, God gently admonishes us and acknowledges our reaction to His calls. "Listen when I reprimand you; I will give you good advice and share my knowledge with you. I have been calling you, inviting you to come, but you would not listen. You paid no attention to me."

Through his master plan of creation, God wants humans to obey His command and prosper in His absolute promise. But humans desire to leave God and to fulfill their own desires. Where in the world can there be a more terrible tragedy than this?

According to Proverbs, because we reject God, the promises of all the blessings that He proclaimed are not realized in us. Not only that, although we may call upon God in the midst of suffering, He will not answer us nor will He meet us.

The power of God the Creator has not changed from the beginning to the present. In fact, continuing archeological excavations are demonstrating more realistically the mystery and truthfulness of the Bible.

Even now, in any place around the world, God is allowing His transcendental power and the mystery of heaven to be experienced by those who truly trust in Him and in the Bible. But we fail to experience God because, as humans, we are swayed by the world's easy and pleasurable desires.

But we can have hope under any circumstances through God's will and purpose, because He always wants to give us grace through his wisdom. See v. 33. "But whoever listens to me will have security. He will be safe, with no reason to be afraid."

We pray to God every day to have many of our own wishes and desires come true. We put in the time, energy, and dedication to pray for what we want. And I believe we have the right to pray for our own desires as children of God, which cannot be said to be an incorrect belief. But let's think about this from a different perspective.

How much interest do we have in God's desires for our lives? How much do we pray to have God's will and desires, not our own, fulfilled in our lives? How much time, energy, and dedication do we put into it?

There were times in our lives when we felt bothered or pained from obeying God. But let's think about how many times we decided to obey and carry out what God wanted us to do because it was God's command and His desires, not our own.

One of the motives that drives modern society and its people is the desire to live comfortably. We want everything to be convenient and comfortable. But we must remember that the outcome of our lives is never decided according to how we would like it to be.

We can easily decide that it is impossible to follow the teachings of the Bible while living in the midst of this fallen generation. Peter had used the spiritual discernment given by God that helped him to confess Jesus as Christ. But when he used it to fulfill his own desires and purpose, it became an obstacle that went against the will of Christ.

Modern humanity has come to recognize the infinite possibilities that human beings possess and can accomplish through all the developments in technology, science, and other fields. However, modern humans have come to deny and fail to realize that there is a limit to those so-called infinite possibilities before the Creator God.

It takes wisdom to find and acknowledge these limitations. In recognizing and admitting to our limitations, we seek God and learn to have faith. Do you feel bitterness and unhappiness at the fact that humans are finite with limitations? There is no need to feel that way. God, the Almighty Creator wants to share life and the world beyond our boundaries with us through his wisdom, Jesus Christ.

Let us hear the testimony of one of the world-renowned mathematicians, Dr. In Kang Kim. He wrote, "My advisor, Dr. A. Casson, was a unique person. He demanded that his students' study thoroughly alone, and he personally couldn't give any ideas, he said. He taught us how to be mathematicians on our own.

It was an unreasonable request for a student entering the doctoral program for the first time. But his intentions were clear: true mathematicians are made, not born. His argument paradoxically explained that principles can be learned through numerous failures. For two years I had to go through a long, dark tunnel again. No one explained to me how to solve the problem.

However, during this time, I read the Bible countless times and also accumulated spiritual training. But from then on, slowly, the many problems that seemed taller than a huge mountain began to be solved one by one.

Of course, it started after overcoming numerous setbacks and trial and error. It took five years to detect which direction the light was coming from. At first, it took me 2–3 years to solve one problem. One of Dr. W. Thurston's hypotheses I recently solved took three or four years.

Indeed, it was. As with other disciplines, mathematics in particular requires a lot of patience for me. So, this was a lonely road with no one helping. But very few people know that I have someone who has helped me with a much greater ability than Professor Casson. He is my eternal teacher, the God who made all things in heaven and earth."

I don't know if all mathematician professors, like In Kang Kim, depended on God for wisdom. However, God provided the wisdom of the Absolute to Kim, who depended on his promise and sought his wisdom. Although Dr. Kim currently teaches mathematicians, he is more passionate about delivering the Absolute, who provides wisdom to a younger generation who are immersed in learning without realizing the true freedom and wisdom of life and soul.

Wisdom always guides us to choose things whose value will last forever. Furthermore, today the Holy Spirit reveals it to us through the Bible, which introduces Jesus Christ and all of him.

In this obscene and sinful generation, I bless you all to be proud of Jesus and His Word. Then Jesus will keep us safe and secure while we live in this world. He will also be proud of us when He comes with His holy angels in His Father's glory. You will find it.

God's grace always transcends our expectations and supplies us with his wisdom. And it results in our lives always being filled with trust and inspiration toward God.

The promise of wisdom that the Lord has given us through the book of James empowers us. "If any of you lack wisdom, you should pray and ask God, who will give it to you, because God gives generously and graciously to all" (Jas 1:5). Amen.

Reflections and Applications for Today's Sermon:

- 1) Check and correct whether there is anything among the things you hope for, ask, and pray for from the Lord that you have not thought about God's work but only about man's work. At this time, ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom.
- 2) Everyone always needs wisdom. Find someone among you, your family, or your acquaintances who needs wisdom, pray for him for a week, and then check the results. (Reference: James 1:5, Proverbs 1:33)
- 3) Based on today's sermon text, let's meditate on the most fundamental causes of danger and anxiety in modern highly civilized society and pray for solutions. (For example: Airport, Bridge, and Line Fires)