

June 28, 2020



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Feast with Wisdom Proverbs 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18

### Lesson Background and Introduction

In today's Scripture text, Wisdom invites us into her house; her meal is prepared, and she is ready to give a party to change your life. Folly is also ready. The choice is yours to make: Who will be your hostess and change your life? Today's lesson is drawn from the final chapter in the opening section of Proverbs (chapters 1-9), in which Wisdom (personified as a woman) presents her case for being embraced—and followed as a way of life—by the hearer or reader. From Proverbs 10 on, the book consists primarily of brief sayings and statements of advice covering a wide range of topics, often contrasting the life of wisdom with the life of folly. Despite the many who advocate that there are many paths to life from many different (and even contradictory) religions, the Scriptures still offer the only possibility. Jesus is the only way to life (John 14:6); every other path leads to death. This is why responding to the gospel with acceptance remains so crucial. It is a matter of great urgency because it makes all the difference between life and death. Two houses stand, but one will fall. Two meals are offered, but one is poisoned. Two hostesses extend invitations, but one is deceptive. It is up to each individual to decide which house to enter, which meal to eat, and which invitation to accept. Choose wisely!

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**The Call** - In the previous chapters, Solomon painted a picture of wisdom as a woman with abundant benefits coming from God. In Proverbs 9, she is a woman at home extending gracious hospitality. She is in a stable, durable home, adorned with seven pillars. Throughout the Bible the number seven represented perfection, completeness, likely indicating that this house will never fall or be destroyed. She has prepared a huge feast complete with the most delicate meat, bread, and drink. She told two servants to go and call the simple—those lacking understanding, without courage, and easily swayed to go against God. She wants them in her house, enjoying what is on her table.

**The Contrast** - Wisdom appeals to those willing to listen and learn. The wise become more respectful of the Lord, getting to know Him on a deeper level, growing better at discerning His desires and making better life decisions. But there was another, opposite call from a lady named folly. Some call this other woman a prostitute who symbolized folly. She is outside her own house calling for men to come in. She knows nothing and is loud but is very seductive. Like the wise woman, folly holds an agenda in her hand. She enjoys darkness and doing that which is against God—and she wants company, as many as she can lure her way. The Scriptures say that sin is pleasurable for a season (Heb. 11:25). However, those who give in to her temptation find themselves at a funeral, not a feast.

**Your Conduct** - This chapter again tells us, "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10). Proverbs tells us that rich, wise, quality living begins with a right relationship with God. How do we get to know Him? By getting to know His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the way to God. Jesus is the solid rock on which to build one's life. All other so-called wisdom is really lady folly calling out to us to build our lives on sinking sand.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
God takes us into His darkroom to develop our character

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
Day by day and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear. —Berg

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him*  
(Ps 32:10 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", July 02, 2000)*

**Series: Many Faces of  
Wisdom**

**UNIT: Wisdom in the Gospels**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Vindicating Wisdom  
(Matt 11:7-19)**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Wisdom's Home (Prov 9:1-6)**

#### *Wisdom provides strength (1)*

- Strength to protect from Satan (2 Thess 3:3)
- Strength to keep blameless (1 Cor 1:8)
- Strength to stand firm (2 Cor 1:21)
- Strength from God who is faithful (Heb 10:23)
- Strength that restores (1 Peter 5:10)

#### *Wisdom provides nourishment (2)*

- Nourishment through a righteous life (Prov 11:30)
- Nourishment through overcoming the world (Rev 2:7)
- Nourishment to turn one away from the snares of death (Prov 13:14)
- Nourishment through discretion which protects (Prov 2:11)

#### *Wisdom provides understanding (3-6)*

- Understanding that draws people to God (Deut 4:6)
- Understanding of the mystery of Jesus (Eph 3:2-4)
- Understanding that comes from living wisely (Eph 5:15-17)
- Understanding that comes from God's word (2 Tim 2:7)

### **Obtaining Wisdom (Prov 9:8-10)**

#### *Wisdom through instructions (8-9)*

- Instructions that must be obeyed (1 Sam 15:13-19)
- Instructions that when disregarded, will cause destruction (1 Chron 13:2-11)
- Instructions that requires the keeping of all points (James 2:10)
- Instructions that are given so man would have no excuse (Rom 1:20)

#### *Wisdom through fear of the Lord (10)*

- Fear of the Lord that results in departing from evil (Prov 3:7-8)
- Fear of the Lord that leads to following God (Ps 128:1-2)
- Fear of the Lord that provides discernment (Prov 2:3-5)
- Fear of the Lord that leads to the supplying of needs (Ps 34:9)

### **Folly's Home (Prov 9:13-18)**

#### *Folly lacks knowledge (13)*

- Lack of knowledge due to being darkened in understanding (Eph 4:18)
- Lack of knowledge because of not having open spiritual eyes (Acts 26:17-18)
- Lack of knowledge because of futile thinking (Rom 1:21-25)
- Lack of knowledge because of minds being veiled (2 Cor 4:2-4)

#### *Folly tempts (14-16)*

- Temptations from Satan (1 Cor 7:5)
- Temptations from own lust (Rom 6:12)
- Temptations from sin (Col 3:5-6)
- Temptations from one's own evil desires (James 1:13-15)

#### *Folly results in destruction (17-18)*

- Destruction by the Almighty God (Isa 13:6)
- Destruction because of man's sinful nature (Gal 6:8)
- Destruction by a just God (2 Thess 1:6-9)
- Destruction of the ungodly (2 Peter 3:7)