



Wise As-Week 2

“Find a Dangerous Friend” – Ben Foote

April 18, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Hebrews 10:24-25; Proverbs 27:4-6; Psalm 141:5; Proverbs 27:17; Proverbs 4:7

// Message Summary

This week, Ben teaches about Wisdom. Wisdom is defined as “the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good Judgement, the quality of being wise.” It is often a common mistake to believe that knowledge and wisdom are the same. However, as emphasized in Ben’s talk, knowledge is the “awareness or acquisition of facts, information or skills” while wisdom is knowing what to do with those facts, information, or skills. In short, knowledge is knowing a thing while wisdom is knowing what to do with the thing. Enter the book of Proverbs, a book that is simply a collection of wise sayings. Ben, through his teaching, shows us that wisdom is gained through intentional relationships, not through relational isolation. These relationships are not the surface-level kind where everyone smiles and acts like everything is good. Instead, they are the deeper relationships where your friends can call you out when you are wrong and tell you the truth even when you don’t want to hear it. These are friends who walk with you in your pain and sometimes cause temporary pain, to push you towards your victory. These friends are not satisfied with your failure and celebrate your successes. These are ‘Proverbs 18:24’ friends. Ben encourages us to “Find a Dangerous Friend: Someone who is willing to offend your pride in the short-term, for the sake of your long-term wellbeing.”

// Biblical Context

The book of the Proverbs was written primarily by King Solomon. Solomon, the tenth son of David and the third king of Israel, was considered to be the wisest “of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.” (1 Kings 4:30). The book of Proverbs was written to teach people how to gain wisdom and understanding, to receive instruction in behavior to do what is right, just, and fair, and to give insight and discernment to the young (Proverbs 1:2-4). The major themes of the Book of Proverbs are the fear (honor/deep reverence) of the Lord as well as the attainment and application of wisdom. Proverbs is intentional in emphasizing that wisdom was created “at

the beginning of His (God's) work" (Proverbs 8:22-31) and makes clear that obtaining wisdom begins with a healthy "fear" of the Lord. In Chapter 27, the writer knows that the reader, in their sinful nature, can walk in pride. That pride can cause the reader to respond like fools instead of one who is wise. Chapter 27 shows the reader how to protect themselves against prideful behavior, namely having friends who care enough for them to correct them when they are wrong. Humility allows us to see the condition of our hearts, our relationships, our finances, and our capabilities. Proverbs 27 challenges the reader to look at their life circumstances through the eyes of humility.

// Community Questions

- Who is/are your best friend(s)?
- How often do you check your social media feeds a day? Do you feel more or less connected to others after being on social media?

// Discussion Questions

1. This weekend, Ben said "A REAL friend is willing to wound you in the short-term (offend you or hurt your feelings by delivering hard truth). Who in your life do you trust to speak hard truth to you even if it will wound your ego in the short-term?
2. Do you struggle to receive tough feedback or criticism? How does it make you feel, and why do you think you feel that way?
3. What area(s) of your life is it most difficult for you to hear and accept hard truth in? (i.e., marriage/relationship, work, parenting, sexuality, finances, lifestyle choices, your physical health) Why do you think certain areas are more difficult than others?
4. Read Proverbs 27:4-6 as a group. Do you identify more as the type of friend who speaks hard truth to those you love? Or are you more of a "yes man" and are afraid to offend someone and hurt their feelings?
5. Read Proverbs 27:17. Being sharpened by another piece of iron means you must be in close proximity, in relationship with, and continually refining. What is a tangible way that you can be doing that more with someone you love, or allowing them to do this with you?

// Challenge

Take time this week to take inventory of the friendships and relationships in your life. Are they the friendships that you want and need? A 'safe' friend is a danger to yourself. And so, we should each find a dangerous friend. What we mean by this is find someone who is willing to risk your feelings, for the sake of your own good. Not all the time, not out of anger, jealousy, or a malicious desire to hurt you; But someone who LOVES you and has your expressed permission to call you out. What is the biggest thing in your life that keeps you from becoming vulnerable and letting a dangerous friend in? What steps do you need to take to find a dangerous friend? Make that call or send that text this week. At the same time, think about what things you need to change in order to become a dangerous friend.