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The Proverbs Series 2

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### **Wisdom's Call**

**Proverbs 1:20-33** <sup>20</sup>Wisdom calls out in the street, she lifts her voice in the square; <sup>21</sup>in the main concourse she cries aloud, at the city gates she makes her speech: <sup>22</sup>“How long, O simple ones, will you love your simple ways? How long will scoffers delight in their scorn and fools hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup>If you had repented at my rebuke, then surely I would have poured out my spirit on you; I would have made my words known to you. <sup>24</sup>Because you refused my call, and no one took my outstretched hand, <sup>25</sup>because you neglected all my counsel, and wanted none of my correction, <sup>26</sup>in turn I will mock your calamity; I will sneer when terror strikes you, <sup>27</sup>when your dread comes like a storm, and your destruction like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish overwhelm you. <sup>28</sup>Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will earnestly seek me, but will not find me. <sup>29</sup>For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD. <sup>30</sup>They accepted none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof. <sup>31</sup>So they will eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. <sup>32</sup>For the waywardness of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. <sup>33</sup>But whoever listens to me will dwell in safety, secure from the fear of evil.” (BSB)

I. Here are some important definitions to this passage.

- A. **Wisdom** – The ability to accurately apply information when appropriately needed.
- B. **Simpleton** – This is a foolish or gullible person. Someone who has not learned to think through the implications of their actions or words. They see only their immediate self interests and cannot fathom the big picture.
- C. **Scoffer** – One who ridicules others out of bitterness. Biblically this happens when one misses the truth that indeed no one is perfect and that everyone is in need of grace and mercy.
- D. **Fool** – A depraved person who chooses their own fleshly appetites over God's counsel.

II. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. Wisdom is **personified** as a woman proclaiming an important message. V.20-21
- B. Conviction, repentance, and restitution are the desired **outcomes** of Wisdom's call. V. 23-24
- C. Those **rejecting** Wisdom will receive what is coming to them. V. 25-28

- D. Wisdom's message is one of loving truth and letting **God** be on the throne of their life. V.29-30
- E. We have a **choice** of receiving what we deserve or receiving the grace and mercy of God. V.31-33

III. What can we learn from this passage?

- A. We must choose to **not blame** someone else for our own actions and words.
- B. A great judgment is coming upon all who **reject** the Wisdom of God.
- C. Change **begins** with me. A wise person will accept responsibility for their own actions, attitudes, and words.
- D. We must let go of all bitterness and unforgiveness. We must continue to write **grace checks** to others, God, and ourselves.