



## SERMON NOTES:

- The book of Proverbs end with these four chapters that summarize and personalize the virtues of wisdom.
- Chapters 30-31 deal with two men (probably from Arabia) and show that the wisdom of Solomon reached outside the borders of Israel.
- Proverbs 31:10-31 was written as a Hebrew Acrostic to help people memorize the truths. God wants us to remember AND live the values of wisdom.
- Excellence (virtue)- Proverbs 31:10
  - Proverbs 28:18
- Trust- Proverbs 31:11
  - Proverbs 29:25
- Does Good- Proverbs 31:12
  - Proverbs 29:27
- Willing Worker- Proverbs 31:13
  - Proverbs 30:24-25
- Industrious- Proverbs 31:14
  - Proverbs 28:8
- Provider- Proverbs 31:15
  - Proverbs 29:21
- Wise Investor- Proverbs 31:16
  - Proverbs 28:19
- Physically Strong- Proverbs 31:17
  - Proverbs 30:5
- Thorough- Proverbs 31:18
  - Proverbs 31:8-9
- Diligent Worker- Proverbs 31:19
  - Proverbs 28:20
- Gracious Giver- Proverbs 31:20
  - Proverbs 28:27
- Prepared- Proverbs 31:21
  - Proverbs 29:18
- Self-sufficient- Proverbs 31:22
  - Proverbs 30:32
- Honors spouse- Proverbs 31:23
  - Proverbs 30:20
- Quality- Proverbs 31:24
  - Proverbs 29:23
- Clothed in Righteousness- Proverbs 31:25
  - Proverbs 29:6
- Gracious Words- Proverbs 31:26
  - Proverbs 28:9
- Prudent- Proverbs 31:27
  - Proverbs 30:8-9
- Family-First Ministry- Proverbs 31:28
  - Proverbs 29:15, 17
- Faithful Servant, Well-done- Proverbs 31:29
  - Proverbs 28:26
- Fears the LORD- Proverbs 31:30
  - Proverbs 28:14
- Fruitful- Proverbs 31:31
  - Proverbs 29:2-3
- If we learned to sing the song of wisdom, we would not fall prey to the song of fools.
- Be spiritual (following Jesus), not stupid (following flesh)



## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Psalms 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145; Lamentations 4; Proverbs 31 are all written in Hebrew Acrostic to assist the reader in memorizing truth. Read one of the other passages and compare it to Proverbs 31: 10-31. What some of the similarities? What truths are in those passages that God would want His children to remember? Do you have a plan for memorizing Scripture? If yes, what is it? Have you shared it with someone else to help them? If no, a few suggestions: 1) write the verse on a 3x5 card and carry it with you 2) write the first letter of each word in the verse and fill in the blanks as you remember them 3) make up a jingle or song with the verse.
2. Read Proverbs 30. There are multiple times that the writer says a number then adds one more to make the point; example, The leech has two daughters: give and give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough." (Proverbs 30:15). What is the meaning of that statement and why add the extra number? (Hint: can any list be exhaustive?)
3. Agur and Lemuel (Proverbs 30-31) are mysterious people because we don't know anything about them from other places in Scripture. Some think that they are pseudonyms from Solomon, while others think that they are Aramaic names showing the influence of Solomon beyond Israel. Their identity is not as important as the wisdom they have come to understand. We often judge wisdom based on the person speaking, rather than on the value compared to other parts of God's Word. The value is found in their truth, not their spokesman. What is some wisdom that you have learned from others and how does it relate to Scripture? Sometimes the wisdom can be cute rather than truth.
4. Read Proverbs 28-29. What truths are expressed in relationship to authority/rulers? Why would God relate truth in such a manner? How does it compare to our relationship with His authority? How does Proverbs 21:1-2 affect this principle?
5. Practical application: What one area in your life does not line up with wisdom, but rather with worldly? If we are going to be spiritual, not stupid; then we have to take action to change the direction of our foolishness towards wisdom. What's one thing you can do to take a step in the right direction?