



January 2, 2022

Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

“Ancient Advice for Social Media”

Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt. A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you. Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still. - Proverbs 9:7-9a (NRSV)

“The Wise, the Naive, the Scoffer, the Fool”

In the Book of Proverbs, we read the words **wise, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding** over and over. And the key phrase “fear of the Lord” appears frequently. In a nutshell, those who read the Bible’s wisdom books may respond in four different ways: the wise heeds and receives the truth and becomes judicious; the naïve does not listen to wisdom and is easily deceived in life, believing whatever he or she wants to believe; the scoffer is cynical of God’s wisdom and finds it impossible to live well; the fool rejects God’s wisdom and becomes morally and spiritually bankrupt.

Could it be that the author of Proverbs was a Twitter or Facebook user? The passage above has sound advice for interacting with social media feeds: don’t interact with everyone. Draw near to some; draw away from others. You do not owe anyone your nearness, online.



You can tell the difference between the scoffers and the wise within moments online. You will not change a scoffer’s mind, no matter how well-informed you are. Scoffers do not respect learning. Rather they would rather mock your earnestness. You can expend a lot of energy trying to convince scoffers, but what good will that do? You will become frustrated and angry and waste your time.

Gravitate toward the wise people instead, says Proverbs: the ones who are curious, who have honest questions, and who can receive new information or even have their opinions contradicted with an open mind and heart. We have a limited number of breaths, words, and keystrokes left before we die. Let us not waste on the scoffers. (special thanks to Quinn Caldwell from Upstate NY for pointing me to the book of Proverbs as a guide for contemporary living.)

Special prayers this week: for the victims of the fires in Colorado; healing for Elizabeth. Hear our prayers O Lord!
