



January 30, 2022 Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

Proverbs – To Sum Up: remember that Proverbs is a long speech to a youth warning of the dangers and blessings to be encountered in the big city. Since Proverbs is a book for teaching ethics, morals, and “Fear of the Lord,” we can say it is useful for all entering adulthood...and those needing a refresher course...since it touches on many important themes of a godly life: generosity, persistence, choosing friends, personal conduct/immorality, and more. Basically, how to have a right relationship with God and neighbor:

- “Pride goes before destruction.” [16:18]
- “Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.” [10:12]
- “Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to the needy honor him.” [14:31]

Spiritual Practices: Proverbs is a great springboard for personal spiritual practices. For instance, you might choose to read about one theme mentioned above in one sitting. (This website has suggestions: <https://www.reviveourhearts.com/articles/topics-in-the-book-of-proverbs/>) Or I know people who have set a goal to read one chapter of Proverbs a day. Since there are 31 chapters in Proverbs, that is a good approach. Some people practice journaling and making a journal entry for a proverb that speaks to us is a good reflective habit. You may develop your own approach. Those of you who actively observe the season of Lent may want to study Proverbs during Lent this year.



What is one thing we can take away from Proverbs?

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. That is a good start, with the understanding that the end is a long way away. Who is to say that the multitude of souls who have walked this earth should follow the same spiritual path in the same way at the same speed. We must discern our own paths, and we can be guided by Proverbs and with prayer and trust that “Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” [30:5] We can confidently live by this prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and
Supremely happy with Him forever in
the next. AMEN

Next in Sunday Blasts about wisdom literature, a few wisdom psalms before we approach Ecclesiastes.

Special prayers this week: for Mark’s soul and his grieving family; thanks for Elizabeth’s hard work on the Chapel website. Let us also prayer for those enduring extreme weather. Hear our prayers O Lord!
