

WISDOM'S CRY

by Carter Conlon

Proverbs 8:1-5: *Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.*

In this chapter of Proverbs, there is a question being asked: *Doth not wisdom cry?* We need to ask ourselves this same question. "What is this wisdom?" Or more pertinently, "Who is this wisdom that the Bible is referring to?" Here in Proverbs wisdom is referred to in the first person, and not just as a concept. For example, in Proverbs 8:12, the Bible says, "I wisdom..." and this is in the first person, as a voice that is literally speaking to us. If we take this wisdom to be Christ, which I truly believe the Scripture means, then it makes complete sense, and you understand clearly whom the writer was pointing to in the Proverbs. Again, the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:24 gives us an answer when he exclaims that Jesus Christ is both the power and the wisdom of God. Jesus Christ is therefore the manifestation of God's wisdom.

■ CHRIST AS WISDOM IN CREATION

Proverbs 8:22-27: *The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when*

there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there.

This was Christ, who was with the Father in the beginning of time; it was by Christ that the heavens and the earth were created. Wisdom was not just a concept in the mind of God, but a person, and that person is Jesus Christ.

In Proverbs 8:30 and 31, we are told that he rejoiced before God the Father: *Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him. Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.* In the New American Standard Bible, it reads this way: *Rejoicing in the world, his earth, and having my delight in the sons of men.* This verse tells us that wisdom found his delight in the world and the people that God had created. Since the delight of the Father was in the sons of men, Christ came into the world and echoed that same sentiment. He was with the Father when the world was created, and he was there in the garden when Adam and Eve sinned. He has always known the heart of the Father and so he knew that the Father was not willing that any one of these should perish, but that all should come to a saving knowledge of God, which ultimately would come through his shed blood on Calvary.

The Apostle John captures this revelation of Christ as wisdom who was with the Father in the beginning, when he says in John 1:1-3: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* John continues in chapter 17, verses 5 and 24, as he records the prayer of Christ: *...O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was... Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

Christ was with the Father in the beginning and therefore he could pray, asking the Father to glorify him with the glory which he had with him before the world was created. Christ came to let people know the Father has loved them in the same manner that he loved him, his own Son. The desire of both the Father and the Son was for men and woman to be partakers in the Father's glory, and to be one with them forever. God's delight is in you. I don't know if you realize that or not. He could have destroyed this world the moment Adam sinned in the garden, but he did not. If he had, he would be destroying people like you and me, people whom he had predetermined to live and have life more abundantly, and whom he did not want to lose for all of eternity.

■ ISAIAH SPEAKS OF CHRIST AS THE WISDOM OF GOD

In Isaiah 11:1-4, Isaiah is speaking prophetically of Christ and revealed him as the one upon whom wisdom, in its purest form, rests. He says: *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears. But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*

In other words, he will have an understanding of the heart of God. He will not walk by what his eyes see, or what he hears by his natural ear, but he will be seeing and hearing by the Spirit of God. Isaiah was saying there is going to be power in his words; he is going to have power to lift the poor out of the dunghill and he is going to fight for those who have nobody to stand for them. He is going to smite or destroy both the wicked and the wisdom of this world with the words of his mouth. Ultimately, for the wicked, the justice of God will be revealed at the end of time, when he judges the whole world. This will happen. But until that day, this wisdom, which was evidenced in and through Christ's life, is a power that stopped the religious game player right in his tracks.

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These wicked are those who were comfortable in their own religiousness, clean in their own physical exterior, but resistant to the truth. The voice of Jesus came into their midst (John 7:37-38) where they all stood and put an end to its false assurance. The evidence of the wisdom which was in Christ was heard by all as he cried out to help those who knew they were still spiritually poor.

■ A CRY FOR LIVING WATER

So the question is asked: Doth not wisdom cry? As we have seen, Jesus, being the wisdom of God, came into this world, and one of the things we see in him is a cry. Throughout his life here on earth you see this cry come forth. We see it in John 7:28-29, as the Scripture says that as he taught the people in the temple, he cried out aloud. He was not a boring religionist. There was something in him; it wasn't just, "Well, listen, guys! I have the answer." No! There was a cry. Wisdom has a cry. His teaching was beyond mere fact; there was passion in his teaching. He had been sent of the Father for one express purpose—to redeem the sons of men that had fallen short of the glory of God and to tell them that there was a way back into everlasting fellowship with God the Father. It was actually a cry from the heart of God, "You are lost—and here is the way out."

Jesus stood up on that last day of the great feast, the feast of Tabernacles. This was being celebrated to remind God's people of when Israel lived in tents in the wilderness. Here God had provided for them water out of a rock. Jesus cried out to all who would hear him on that last day, as if he couldn't contain it anymore, *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water* (John 7:37-38). He was that Rock, the Scripture says, that followed them

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in the wilderness; he was the one who gave them drink, and now again there was a cry from the heart of God to give living water to those who would trust in him.

■ A CRY FOR THE DEAD

Now we see Jesus at the grave of Lazarus, where people were standing around disillusioned and disappointed, even though the living Christ was in their midst. He easily could have said, "Just take away the stone and bring him out." His whispered word has more than the empowerment of a nuclear blast. But the Scripture tells us that he stood on the mountainside and cried, "Lazarus, come forth!" He cried out because this is the embodiment of wisdom. Wisdom has a cry, and this was and is the cry of God for all mankind. One day Jesus is going to call out of the grave every person who has ever trusted in his salvation. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:16: *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...* You ask, "Why a shout?" It is because God has waited for this from the day man was created. He has wanted a people to have fellowship with. So God waits; he waits for every man, woman, child, and young person who is ever going to hear and respond to his cry. And Jesus, who knows the desire of the Father's heart, also waits; he waits for that one day in heaven when the Father will lean over and say, "Son, go and receive your bride." I don't know exactly what it is going to look like, but the Scripture indicates in the New Testament that he is coming back with a thousand times ten thousands of his saints. He will come with a shout and the dead

in Christ are going to rise first, and those who are alive are going to be gathered together with him in the clouds, and so shall we ever be with the Lord! Hallelujah!

■ A CRY THAT OPENS UP A WAY HOME TO GOD

Doth not wisdom cry? Mathew 27:50 records Jesus' last physical act as a cry. The Scripture says, *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.* The cry that he uttered on the cross was followed by the rending or tearing of the veil into the Holy of Holies; it shook the earth and split rocks in two; it raised many who were already dead in their graves; and it convicted some of the hardest sinners, which included a Roman centurion at the foot of the cross. This cry of God is always followed by a path being made so that you can find your way home to God. He tore the veil, making a way for every man, woman, and child to come into his presence. He shook the earth as a sign that it doesn't matter what kind of foundation your life was built upon—nothing can hold you back anymore, other than unbelief. No matter what people have told you about your life, all the hurtful things they have said, he will shake it all away and change it all in a shout.

The earth shook, as a sign, as if God's voice can't be contained. The Scripture says that many who were dead rose back into life and went into Jerusalem, and into the temple among the people and testified (Matthew 27:52-53). It's as if an incredible overflow was in that final shout. It's like Jesus could not wait, like the man who begins shouting for victory before the last ball is thrown and hasn't even gone

through the hoop yet; but he can't wait—he shouts before the final score is tallied because he knows his team has won and he can't contain the excitement.

The evidence of his wisdom is that he is a soul winner.

■ WISDOM HAS BUILT HER HOUSE - THE CHURCH

Proverbs 9:1-2 says it this way: *Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars. She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.* Now this is interesting; this house that wisdom built has seven pillars. The number seven speaks not only of perfection, but it speaks of the **rest** of God. He literally has made all provision for his people; the sacrifice has been made, and the nourishment is all there.

Wisdom has built a perfect house and this house is called the church of Jesus Christ. This is the dwelling place of God and it's also the temple of God. Individually, we are all the temple of the living God, but it is also the believers who collectively gather to worship God. So now, today, you and I have all the knowledge that we need; we partake of the sacrifice of Christ and know that our sins are forgiven; he has filled us with the Holy Ghost, and given us power; we have been given a table, as David said in Psalm 23, that is furnished in the presence of our enemies.

■ WISDOM IS A PASSION FOR SOULS

Proverbs 9:3 says, *She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city.* This perfect house that has been built by God and established in wisdom has messengers that are sent out by God. These messengers have the same cry as God, the cry for lost men and woman who are created in the image of God.

Proverbs 11:30 says, *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.* Wisdom is demonstrated in godly passion for the lost. Wisdom is not just an accumulation of knowledge—seven principles for this or seven principles for that, always trying to better yourself in this life. But if we are a people who truly have wisdom, if the wisdom of God has been planted in us, then God's passion for the lost becomes our passion. We cannot go through our day unmoved by human need round about us. That's why the Scripture says, "The soul winner is wise." The evidence of his wisdom is that he is a soul winner. He has moved and entered into the very work that his master came to do. It proves his wisdom. Paul taught that in the last days people are going to be always learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth. They are always learning but they haven't won a soul to God in years. The true wisdom of God is always evidenced by its passion to win people to Christ.

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■ WISDOM'S ENEMY - SELFISHNESS

True wisdom has an enemy. We find the enemy in the third chapter of Genesis—the serpent who comes and attempts to lead those created in the image of God into something that seems reasonable to the human mind. The enemy seeks to shift the focus from the cry for people that comes from wisdom, to the elevation of self. Much of what's preached today is an enemy of the cross. That's what Paul called it; he said, *I tell you even with tears, they are enemies of the cross whose god is their belly, whose glory is their shame, and whose mind is on*

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earthly things. They use the Gospel of Jesus Christ for selfish ambition, to acquire money and power. They use it to gain an influence over people's lives. But there is no true cry of wisdom in them. They really are enemies of the cross without a true heart to enter into that which is the real work of God.

■ GOD HELP US NOT TO LOSE THE CRY FOR THE SOULS OF MEN

A church that is not moving into the true wisdom of God is losing this cry or it's becoming less and less. God is speaking to the church so that we don't lose the things that he has done for us; that we don't become a people who are just content to come and sit and accumulate knowledge, just taking a class here or a class there. And ironically, we think that is wisdom. No! Wisdom is a cry—*Doth not wisdom cry?* Wisdom is a passion. Wisdom has a hard time passing by human need.

God, help us that we don't lose the cry. I think of the time we were doing a crusade in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Jamaica. In spite of what the whole world said could not happen in this poverty-stricken area, wisdom said, "I can see thousands coming to Jesus Christ." And during our visit, they did respond to the cry. There was more than just a preached sermon—there was a cry from the heart of God. We witnessed one of the hardest thugs in the area attend the crusade and surrender his life

to Jesus Christ. Afterwards, he went to one of our workers and said, "That man preaching was crying for my soul. I heard him crying for me." Beloved, he heard God's heart crying for his soul and it melted away all of his violence and all of his self-image. His foundation was shaken, the veil keeping him from God was torn open, and this one-time thug walked into the presence of God, not because he understood what was even being spoken, but because he heard a cry and knew it was for his soul.

If we lose wisdom's cry, we lose the very heart of God. We are called, and he has built his house and sent out his messengers into the marketplace, and into the streets where you live. We are those messengers of the very heart of God for every man, woman, and child born into this world.

Carter Conlon
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TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	10:00AM	3:00PM	6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00PM	Church Service	
Thursday	7:00PM	Intercessory Prayer	
Friday	7:00PM	Church Service	

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