

Protection from Deception

The Proverbs

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **May 05, 2024**



Jesus' most direct and consistent warning regarding this point in human history was against deception—that even God's people could be deceived. We know by now that if Jesus warned us against something, we need to be paying attention—and be careful. If you imagine you can never be deceived, you already are. To clarify, deception is when you believe something to be true which is not true, and deception is not always something willful or about sincerity. You can be sincerely deceived. It's also not always about belligerence. Sometimes, doing your best with the information available can bring you to a conclusion not based on fact. The Lord also told us that deception will increase, because apart from God, our human character is flawed. Apart from the power of God that transforms us, we don't have others' best interests at heart. This is our reality. But there is a solution, and we are going to the book of Proverbs to learn more about God's practical solutions to our challenge of deception.

***All around us is the evidence of widespread deception. How do you respond when confronted with deception in your life?**

I. The Grand Invitation—

Proverbs 1:1-6 (The Message®)

¹ These are the wise sayings of Solomon, David's son, Israel's king— ² Written down so we'll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it's going;

³ **A manual for living, for learning what's right and just and fair;** ⁴ **To teach** the inexperienced the ropes and give our young people a grasp on reality. ⁵ There's something here also for seasoned men and women, still a thing or two for the experienced to learn— ⁶ Fresh wisdom to probe and penetrate, the rhymes and reasons of wise men and women.

***In what ways have you seen godly wisdom exemplified in another person?**

II. Which Doors to Choose—

A. The Myth Exposed—No Easy Choices!

B. The Great Search; **Choose to Be a "God-Learner"**

Proverbs 1:20-21 (NIV®)

²⁰ Wisdom **calls aloud** in the street, she **raises her voice** in the public squares;

²¹ at the head of the noisy streets **she cries out,**
in the gateways of the city **she makes her speech.**

***What are some practical ways you are seeking to be a "God-Learner" in your daily life?**

III. The Choices

Proverbs 1:23-30 (NIV®)

²³ **If you had responded** to my rebuke, **I would have poured out my heart to you** & made my thoughts known to you.

²⁴ **"since you rejected me"** ²⁵ "you ignored all my advice"

²⁵ "would not accept my rebuke"

²⁸ "they hated knowledge" ³⁰ "spurned my rebuke"

Proverbs 1:27-31 (NIV®)

When calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. ²⁸ "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me.

²⁹ Since they hated knowledge and **did not choose to fear the Lord,** ³⁰ since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, ³¹ they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

***Share a time in your life when you felt stubborn and refused to listen to godly wisdom. How would you encourage someone to not do the same?**

Pray as a group. Holy Spirit, allow me to see those places where I rejected your counsel, ignored your advice, and would not accept your rebuke. I do not want to casually overlook these choices; I choose to repent and to acknowledge my rebellion and stubborn resistance to God. Please forgive me. Amen.

Proverbs 1:33-2:4 (NIV®)

33 Whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

33 “whoever listens will live”

¹ “accept my words”

¹ “store up my commands”

² “apply your heart to understanding”

3 “call out for insight”

⁴ “look for it as for silver”

“search for it as hidden treasure”

Proverbs 2:9-11 (NIV®)

⁹ Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair--every good path.

¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

¹¹ Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

***Share some areas where God has been offering direction in your life. How have you been responding?**

Pray as a group. Holy Spirit, I choose to listen, to accept God’s words, to store up His commands. This day I am calling out for insight and renewing my search for the treasure of the Kingdom of God. Grant me the discernment to recognize your direction. Amen.

IV. What if You Could Know...The Answers—

Proverbs 2:1-2, 9, 12, 16, and 20 and Proverbs 3:1 (NIV®)

My son, **if** you **accept** my words and **store up** my commands within you, ² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,

⁹ Then you will understand ... **every good path.**

¹² Wisdom will save you from **the ways of wicked men.**

¹⁶ It will **save YOU** also **from the adulteress.**

²⁰ Thus you will **walk in the ways of good men.**

¹ They will prolong your life many years & **bring you prosperity.**

***Over the next 31 days, commit to reading one chapter in the book of Proverbs each day.**

PROCLAMATION

I am learning to trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding; in all my ways I acknowledge Him, and He will make my paths straight. I choose not to be wise in my own eyes. I choose to fear the Lord and shun evil. God will bring health to my body and nourishment to my bones. I will honor the Lord with my wealth, with the first fruits of all I have; then my barns will be filled to overflowing, and my vats will brim over with new wine. (Adapted from Proverbs 3:5-10)