

★ THE ★ Value of WISDOM

There are some misconceptions we have when it comes to wisdom, considering that possibly wisdom isn't for us, but for others – the older, more clever people. However, as a Jesus-follower, practicing wisdom is mandatory. Jesus wants us to lead abundant lives and make decisions that bring us closer to Him.

THINKING POINTS

Myth: “Wisdom is only achieved with age”

1. Is experience the only way to gain wisdom? What are some other ways?
2. “A smart man learns from his mistakes. A wise man learns from the mistakes of others. A wise man also learns from the victories of others.” Knowing this, is age a valid excuse for not practicing wisdom? Or is there a certain age where we should start practicing wisdom?

Short-term gain vs long-term foundations

1. In what ways does the world push us towards short-term gain / immediate gratification?
2. Could we be so focused on what we want right now, that considering anything else seems like a sacrifice? Will what we want right now still be meaningful in a year's time? Five years' time?
3. Read Luke 6:46-49. What does this story have to say about short-term gain versus long-term foundations?

The Wise and Foolish Builders

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

LUKE 6:46-49

In John 3:16, we read about how God gave His son so that we could have everlasting life. But more than just an ordinary life - an **abundant** everlasting life, life to the absolute fullest. A long-term mindset is in step with His plan for us to achieve an abundant life. Making wise decisions now isn't a sacrifice - it's insurance, building a foundation for the incredible life God has laid out for us. Forever is a long time; wise decisions ensure that we will be able to have the richest and most fulfilling life that God intended for us.

NEXT STEPS

1. If I'm not exercising wisdom right now, what foundations am I laying down for the future?
2. The world pushes us away from wisdom, but what kind of life could we have if, instead of moving with the throng away from wisdom, we intentionally moved towards wisdom?
3. 'In light of my past circumstances, current circumstances and future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do?'

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
James 1:22