

Someone's Missing

Wisdom calls out!

She calls “to you, O men” and “to the sons of men.” (Ch. 8:4) The references to 'men' and 'sons of men' might be understood as 'mankind.' So, wisdom calls out to everyone. She wants *everyone* to listen and learn and gain understanding.

Yet...two are singled out.

**O naïve ones, discern prudence;
And, O fools, discern wisdom.
--Proverbs 8:5**

Who are the naïve and the fool?

The Hebrew term for 'naïve' is rooted in the idea of 'being spacious or wide open.' The naïve person is 'open-minded.' However, being open-minded works in two ways. Not only is the naïve likely to believe a lie, he is just as likely to believe what is true. He is just as likely to make choices that lead down a path of evil as he is to choose the path of good. The trouble is that he is too open-minded to tell the difference. He needs wisdom and discretion.

The Hebrew term used in this verse for 'fool' carries the idea of 'heaviness' or being 'fat.' Used in a good sense, heaviness is related to *strength*; in a bad sense, *laziness* and *inactivity* of the mind, so stupidity and folly.

The fool needs wisdom and discretion to activate his mind and motivate him toward things that are good and beneficial.

So, Wisdom called out to two, but did you notice that she called to only two?

Wisdom called the naïve and the fool, but one is left out.

Someone is missing.

In Proverbs 1 Wisdom reflects on a trio: Naïve ones, fools, and scoffers.

**How long, O naïve ones,
will you love simplicity?
And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing,
And fools hate knowledge? (1:22)**

Yet, when Wisdom calls out in chapter 8, why does she not call out to the *scoffer*?

Perhaps it is because the nature of the scoffer. You have probably been around a scoffer. They mock others; they reject wisdom; they laugh at instruction:

- The scoffer already knows!
- The scoffer will not listen!
- The scoffer does not take advice!
- The scoffer is confident (though it is really only pride)!

(Read ahead in Proverbs 9 to see how to deal with the scoffer.)

Wisdom is wise. She calls to those who *can* listen, who *can* be taught.

Is wisdom calling you?
Are you able to listen?
Can you be taught?
...or are you...*missing*???