

## Sanity – Proverbs 4: 10-27

### Walking the Straight Path- With Christ

#### Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:26

*Carefully consider the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established.*

**Review:** (Read verses with each sermon point)

There are 2 paths to take:

- Path of the Wise (4: 10-13, 17)
- Path of the Foolish (4:14-17, 19)

How do we walk in the way of the wise?

- Watch your heart (4:23)
- Watch what you hear (4:20)
- Watch what you say (4:24)
- Watch where you look (4:25)
- Watch where you go (4:26-27)

**Opening - Ask:**

Were there any particular points that really spoke to you? (Let the class discuss for a couple of minutes, share something yourself.)

#### Relating the Truths to Understanding

Ask:

Can you think of Biblical examples of people who demonstrated walking in the way of the wise? Let the class provide examples such as: King David who was “a man after God’s own heart”, Moses took advice from his father-in-law Jethro, Ruth listened to the counsel of her mother-in-law Naomi, Mary who sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to His teaching...etc.

Can you think of examples of people you have known in your lifetime who demonstrated walking the way of the wise? How did you know they were walking in wisdom?

Is it possible to be walking in the way of the foolish while thinking you are walking in the way of the wise? When did you realize you were not on the right path? How did you correct your path?

#### Relating the Truths to Our Hearts

Kenneth made the statement “Religious behavior does nothing but send moral people to hell.” Walking in the path of the wise is serious business and requires much more than moral living. Even ungodly people can live morally.

Ask:

In your own words, what does it mean to be watching your heart? Why is keeping watch over our hearts important? What would be clues that would tell us that we are not keeping watch over our hearts? (i.e. focus on hobbies, sports, wealth..)

- When our hearts are in a right position with the Lord we are pleased to obey Him and His word. Ez. 36:27 says “...I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes...”

- When our hearts are in a right position with the Lord He makes Himself known to us. Ps. 16:11 says “You make known to me the path of life...”

In our highly distracted world with fast access to so many things to watch and listen to, how can those things hamper our ability to hear from the Lord? How can you tell if you are watching what you hear?

- If you are a parent, you know that obedience demonstrates “hearing” the parent’s instructions. Obedience demonstrates hearing. John 10: 27 says “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” We know that we have “heard” our Heavenly Father when we obey Him. Like a child, we can truly “hear” and choose not to obey.
- The most common question among Christians today is “what is God’s will for my life?” Do you know God’s will for you today? Are you walking in what He has given you to do? Are you “hearing” and “obeying?”

As discussed last week, what do the words we say point to? How do you know if you are watching what you say?

- From Luke 6:45 we know that our words reflect our heart condition: “out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”
- We are watching what we say when we avoid saying more than what is necessary as advised in Proverbs 10:8 “...a babbling fool will come to ruin.” Words of truth build up the body. Eph. 4:29

Why is watching where you look important? What are some consequences if we are not watching where we look? What are some results if we are watching where we look?

- If we walk in darkness, the fruit of the Spirit will diminish (Gal 5:19-24)
- When we are watching where we look, we experience the JOY of obeying our Heavenly Father. Isaiah 33:15 says “He who...shuts his eyes from looking on evil, he will dwell on heights...”

How do you know if you are watching where you go? What determines where we go in life? What are we working towards? What are our goals?

- Our direction in life is determined by what we “see” as valuable and what our “hearts desire” to pursue. Are we pursuing righteousness?
- According to Psalm 1: 1-2, when we are delighting in the law of the Lord we will not “walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners...” When we are watching where we go, we “walk in your (God’s) faithfulness.” Psalm 26:3.

Kenneth began this sermon with the illustration of “Christian,” from John Bunyan’s *Pilgrims Progress*, and his journey to the Celestial City (heaven). We are all on a journey toward the Celestial City. At the end of our lives may we all say what Christian said:

I see myself now at the end of my journey, my toilsome days are ended. I am going now to see that head that was crowned with thorns, and that face that was spit upon, for me. I have formerly lived by hear-say and faith, but now I go where I shall live by sight, and shall be with Him, in whose company I delight myself.

May we all delight in His company along our journey as we walk with Him!

Impact Point: Walk the path of wisdom with Christ – and you will find life.