26-1122p - Detailed Summary

26-1122p - *The Way of Wisdom, Mike Mathis*

Bible Reader: Mike Mathis

See the transcript: Transcript HTML - Transcript PDF

See the outline: Outline HTML - Outline PDF - Mike's Outline PDF

The Way of Wisdom

Scripture Readings

Bible Reader: (0:04 - 0:xx), Mike Mathis **Matthew 11:19** The Scripture reading is within the sermon.	

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 46:11), Preacher: Mike Mathis

(0:04) Introduction and Contrast with the Morning Lesson

Mike welcomes visitors and those on the conference line, praying they will be edified.

He notes that tonight's lesson is different from the morning message titled "Examine the Who." That lesson came from articles he had been reading in the brotherhood paper **Contending for the Faith**. He observes that the paper has shrunk from its former size (usually more than eight pages) to only four pages, and that one brother has held a particular notion for years, finally stating it after twenty years.

"But now tonight's lesson is quite different."

(3:27) Introducing the Text and the Matthew 11 Cross-Reference

"Tonight's lesson is 'The Way of Wisdom,' and it is found in Proverbs 9, and the text is going to be within the first twelve verses."

The title comes from a subdivision heading in one online translation covering Proverbs 9:1–12. Mike notes he has spoken on wisdom recently, but tonight the focus is specifically "the way of wisdom."

Before turning to Proverbs, he reads Matthew 11:18–19:

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is justified by her children."

He repeats the closing line for emphasis: "Wisdom is justified by her children."

(6:48) Wisdom Builds Her House with Seven Pillars

“Wisdom has built her house. She has hewn out her seven pillars.” (Proverbs 9:1)

Mike explains that seven stands for completeness in Scripture. He cites examples from Revelation: the seven thunders, the seven trumpets, and the seven seals on the scroll (Revelation 5:1), which only Jesus Christ can open.

“So when wisdom builds her house and says she has hewn out her seven pillars, that means that those pillars are really supporting the house that she built.”

He then connects this to Jesus’ promise to build His church (Matthew 16:18). After the disciples give various answers about who people say Jesus is, Peter confesses, “You are Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replies that this was revealed by the Father, not by flesh and blood.

Mike notes that Peter (Cephas) means “stone,” but the rock on which the church is built is not Peter himself (“Peter is just a stone, just a little stone”). Rather, “it is built upon the confession that Jesus made, that Jesus is the Son of the living God. … It’s upon that rock he says that he would build his church, the fact that he is the Son of God.”

(11:45) Scoffers Versus the Wise

Mike turns to Proverbs 9:7–9:

“He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Do not correct this scoffer lest he hate you. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser. Teach a just man and he will increase in learning.”

He applies this to those who scoff at the gospel: “Someone scoffs at one trying to tell him about the gospel, about Jesus coming and dying for him. There are those that cannot contemplate one man dying on the cross that can take away our sins. Hard for them to believe that, accept that. But that’s the truth of it, and maybe they will scoff at it.”

(14:19) Scoffers in the Last Days and the Flood

Mike references 2 Peter’s warning about scoffers in the last days who say, “What is the promise of his coming? Your things continue just the same as they always have been since the fathers fell asleep.”

Peter says they willfully forget that the world was created out of water and that God brought a great flood because of wickedness (Genesis 6). God told Noah to build an ark even though people had not seen rain (Genesis 2 speaks of a mist watering the ground).

“Noah believed him and he did build the ark. … The windows of heaven opened, and the fountains of the deep were broken open, and with that going on it rained that way for forty days and forty nights, and it flooded the whole earth.”

Scoffers today forget that the flood destroyed the world that then was. “Time later isn’t the same earth that was made and created for mankind as told in Genesis 1 and 2—not the same.”

(19:18) The Fear / Reverence of the Lord Is the Beginning of Wisdom

Moving to Proverbs 9:9–10, Mike notes a connection to a Bible quiz Bobby had sent to Scott about what causes the beginning of wisdom.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

He observes that some people treat biblical teaching as “just chattering to them as a child would give them childish talk. … To them this is just foolishness.” Yet “the fear, or the reverence of the Lord, is the beginning of wisdom. … When they don’t want to hear you talk about the Bible and what God has to say, they are really missing out.”

(22:02) Benefits of Wisdom, the Cost of Scoffing, and Coming Judgment

Proverbs 9:11–12: “For by me your days will be multiplied, and the years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone.”

“Scoffing at the message that the Bible gives to us, it’s going to be borne alone by the one that scoffed at it. … One day we are going to be judged by this word, by the words that Jesus spoke. We are going to be judged by His words.”

(23:42) The Wise and Foolish Builders

Mike turns to the close of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24–27). The one who hears Jesus’ words and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock; the rain, floods, and winds beat on it, but it did not fall. The one who hears and does not do them is like a foolish man who built on the sand; the house fell, “and great was its fall.”

“So if we are going to be wise, it would be wise for us to listen to Jesus. … Jesus is a member of the Godhead. He is just as much God as the Father is and the Holy Spirit is. And so we need to be wise. We need to listen to what he says and do them.”

Failure to do so leaves one without a solid foundation when storms come.

He returns briefly to Matthew 11:19 and notes the footnote alternative of “works” instead of “children,” but affirms the text as “Wisdom is justified by her children.”

(28:15) Worldly Wisdom Versus Godly Wisdom

“The way of wisdom then is a way that we need to look for real wisdom, the wisdom that comes from the Lord, from God. … In place of the word ‘fear,’ it could be ‘reverence.’ The reverence of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. So that is the way of wisdom. It is not the wisdom of the world. The wisdom of the world shuts out God.”

Mike acknowledges that people can be very smart (e.g., those who send rockets into space), but “generally they shut God out. … What God has to say to them doesn’t make any difference. God is out of the picture.”

Educators with degrees may say there is no God and that the world came by chance through the

theory of evolution. Mike clarifies that “evolution” simply means “change,” and changes occur in our bodies, but he opposes the theory that the world began without God. “The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

He recalls being told that Yahweh was “a figment of my imagination,” yet the Bible plainly speaks of Him and of what He expects. “I think that’s what’s wrong with the world: they don’t want to be told. … Man doesn’t like to be told what he should do. That means that someone is over him.”

(34:31) Personal Illustration: The Man Who Did Not Want to Be Told What to Do

Mike recounts a coworker in Worcester who struggled to load cardboard into a baler. The cardboard kept springing back. Mike showed him how to fold it according to the corrugation so it would stay flat.

The man responded with an attitude: “I don’t like to be told what to do.” Mike thought, “Why did you come here to work? Don’t you know you’re going to be told what to do?” The man seemed to think he could do only what he wanted. Mike pointed out that continuing to struggle and cuss the cardboard was the result of how he folded it.

He further wondered whether the man’s wife also told him what needed to be done at home (e.g., taking out the garbage). “That’s the way it is generally with mankind. Man wants to be his own boss. … ‘I’m doing as I please.’ That’s generally people’s attitude. They do what they please. They don’t want to take orders, and they want to be the god of their own lives.”

Yet a day is coming when God will have the last word. Jesus will say either “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys of life,” or “Depart from me. I never knew you.” “Now which one would we want to hear?”

(39:53) The Mirror of Scripture, the Blood of Christ, and the Invitation

When people steeped in sin say, “You don’t talk to me that way. I don’t want to hear that,” the Bible functions like a mirror: it shows that we are not as righteous as we may think. Good deeds alone do not save. “It’s the blood of Christ that’s going to save them. Christ’s death upon the cross does mean a lot to us and should mean a lot to us.”

Jesus extends the invitation: “Come unto me, all ye that labor, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, for my burden is light. My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Those who obey are like the wise man who built on the rock—the one who wants to revere God and know what God wants him to do.

(43:17) Invitation to Respond

Mike offers the invitation to make Christ one’s own and become His follower:

- Believe that He is who He says He is—the Son of God, proven by His resurrection and miracles.
- Be willing to confess that He is the Son of God.

- Turn away from sin.
- Be buried with Him in baptism for the remission of sins, to be cleansed and washed in His blood.

He also invites those who have been led astray to come back, or anyone with another need to come forward so the church can pray. “You can come back to God and come to God, and he will bless you, and you will find blessings as you go along Christ’s way. That is the way of wisdom.”

“Why not obey the invitation? Why not come forward now and make Christ your own? He will be with you always.”