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First Word

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Rediscovering the Importance of Wisdom

BY JAY POUND

Lately there seems to be little place in our world for wisdom. Though technology and society (not to mention the environment, the economy, school systems, etc.) certainly present us with countless new challenges, problems and opportunities, you will (almost) never hear wisdom emphasized as a necessary or even helpful tool for living in such a complicated world. You could argue that we have never needed it more or promoted it less.

The same could be said specifically for those of us in the church. In the face of significant cultural change and rapid technological development, we without question have a great need for wisdom. We need the ability not only to identify right and wrong, but to navigate skillfully the myriad complications that result simply from trying to live and thrive as faithful people in a fallen world. We need wisdom - and we know it, yet I cannot help feeling that we often neglect much of the wisdom God has already provided.

And we should know better; God has not exactly been subtle about our

need for wisdom to flourish in this world. God has not hidden wisdom away, kept it aside for a hidden few (as the gnostic heresy would claim), 4 entire books of the bible are given over entirely to wisdom (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs). And above and beyond that, we are told that God - the source of all wisdom - gives it generously to all who ask (see Solomon). God wants us to be wise, and he has gone to some lengths to make that clear.

"You could argue that we have never needed it [wisdom] more or promoted it less."

But maybe that only begs the question: why? Why does God want us to be wise? Isn't it enough that we obey, that we do what is right?

First, we should note that there is no such thing as wisdom without obedience. We are told directly that, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom" (Pr. 9:10). But God has called

us to more than mere avoidance of sin, he has given us a mission and purpose in this world. To do that well, we will need to be obedient and wise. Jesus, as he sends out his own disciples says as much: "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" (Mt. 10:16, obedience and wisdom). We know that we are called to love our neighbors and to proclaim the good news; wisdom helps us to do that skillfully in our particular context. And here too, Jesus provides the supreme example. Obedience? Certainly. With wisdom? Undoubtedly.

On Sundays Nov. 17 and 23 we will be offering an elective on Wisdom during both the 9:00 and 10:30 services. We will talk about wisdom generally (What is it? Where do we get it? How does it work?) and we will explore some examples from scripture. Finally, we will spend some significant time discussing how wisdom might be leveraged to help us, individually and as the church, to better navigate some of the issues and opportunities facing us today. I hope to see you there!

Thank you
to all the
volunteers who
served during
the Twin Cities
Marathon!



This Month
@FIRST FREE

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 3

Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday night!

QUARTERLY CELEBRATION (BUSINESS MEETING): NOV. 11

Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness to us on Monday, Nov. 11th at 7:00 p.m.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: NOVEMBER 21, 2:00-7:00 PM

Make an appointment to give blood by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Firstfreeempls.

CES FOOD & PERSONAL ITEMS DRIVE: NOV. 3 & 10

Bags can be picked up in the foyer on Sundays. Bring the filled bags back to church on November 3 & 10. Let's serve our neighbors by providing practical items for those in need.

HARVEST OF PRAISE: NOVEMBER 27, 7:00 PM

You are invited to our annual Thanksgiving worship gathering to give thanks for all God's blessings! There will be a pie social following our praise gathering, households of 2 or more: bring a favorite pie to share. Nursery childcare provided.

FALL SERIES | GALATIANS: LOSING MY RELIGION

NOV. 3 Children of the Promise

NOV. 10 Who Tripped you Up?

NOV. 17 Step with the Spirit

NOV. 24 Reaping What We Sow

Church Family News

Congratulations to Liz and Seth Gouldin on the birth of their son, Lennox Roger Gouldin, who was born on October 8th!

Congratulations to Mallory and Seth Hueckman on the birth of their son, Hiura Wilbert Hueckman, who was born on October 18th!

Congratulations to Katie and Jeff Bormes on the birth of their son, Torin Robert Bormes, who was born on September 23rd!

Our condolences to the family of Dale Bostrom, a long time member of First Free and Creekside Clubs volunteer, who passed away at the age of 59.

Our condolences to the family of Priscilla Johnson, who passed away at the age of 97.

Thanks to our Faith Community Nurses who organized the flu shot clinic on October 13th. 25 people got flu shots at church.



KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Looking for a place to serve at First Free? The kitchen crew could use you! We're looking for people to serve in various ways:

- Serve coffee & donuts on Sundays
- Clean up on Sundays
- Pick up Sunday donuts
- Provide gluten free treats
- Serve at special events (TC Marathon, Church at the Falls, All-church picnic, etc.)
- Serve at funeral receptions
- Help Wednesday nights in the kitchen
- Deep clean the kitchen
- Manage the supplies & inventory
- Schedule servers & volunteers

Would you consider filling one of these roles? Contact Mallory Hueckman at sethandmal@gmail.com with any questions, to get more information or to sign up.

More Pictures from the Marathon



God's Timing & A Church's Generosity

An article from Arrive Ministries (arriveministries.org)

Recently one of our members, David McCoy, suggested that First Free could increase their partnership with Arrive Ministries through their "Church Team" program. We agreed, and David soon recruited a team (pictured below). Together, we work with Arrive Ministries to support and primarily, to befriend new arrivals to our country. And as you will read below, we have already been amazed to see how God has worked in this new partnership.

-Pastor Jay



To fully understand the story of Jamila and her housing crisis, you must understand the incredible timing of her circumstances.

Jamila is a single mother of 3 young boys who fled Mozambique due to an unsafe situation. After

arriving in Minnesota, she was living in transitional housing for almost 2 years. Jamila was not eligible for most social services due to her immigration status as an asylum seeker; and affordable housing was her biggest hurdle.

Through Arrive Ministries, Jamila was partnered with a church team from Bethlehem Baptist Church. At a recent Refugee Life Ministries (RLM) training, the RLM church team leader shared a prayer request to find Jamila housing. Sitting next to the Bethlehem volunteer was another Arrive Ministries volunteer, David McCoy.

"God has had a plan this whole time for this woman, and because we were a little willing to participate in obedience, we get to be a part of God's plan and generosity,"

"Housing is one of the greatest needs refugees and asylum-seekers have," said Wendy Meyering, RLM Program Director. Jamila needed a few more months to figure out some financial and work barriers before she could sign a lease. But Arrive Ministries' staff learned through a church team in St. Louis Park, of a Congolese family of five who needed a new housing situation within 2 days. It was a housing match! The next day the Congolese family signed a lease and moved into the open house at First Free Church.

Three months later, another of First Free's houses opened up next door, and by this time Jamila was able to sign a year lease with First Free; she and her sons could move in immediately. Another housing match! Where First Free had initially planned to house one family, God had clearly planned for them to house two. "It could have just been 17 coincidences. But clearly it's not just a coincidence, the timing was God working his plan for good," said McCoy.



First Free Arrive Ministries Team

God even had the smallest details worked out. Jamila speaks French, the language from her country of origin. The church's property manager? He speaks French. "This is not a story about First Free's generosity. God has had a plan this whole time for this woman, and because we were a little willing to participate in obedience, we get to be a part of God's plan and generosity," said McCoy. "Even though Arrive Ministries did not resettle either of these families, it's amazing to see these churches step into the complicated nature of responding to felt needs. God was in this; and the church was motivated. This is next-level investing in God's people, and this is what we are called to do," said Meyering.

OUR MISSION:
TO HELP
INDIVIDUALS
BECOME
CHRIST-CENTERED
& CHRIST-SENT
TOGETHER

WANT MORE INFO?

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