

70. Lavatory Logic

I have a good friend who displays all her degrees and credentials in the toilet walls under the stairs of her home. This is an incongruous place for Oxford University documents. You won't be surprised to learn that she doesn't practice in Harley St in the prestigious medical heart of London, but chooses a rough housing estate for her medical ministry. A wall full of degrees and other framed certificates seem to speak of wisdom. But in reality, the signed and sealed paperwork speak more of intellectual ability and effort. They don't declare the important things of life, such as that the owner has a good marriage and loyal friends, that the individual is a person of integrity, fun and generously blesses others.

Qualifications, like a prestigious post/zip code and high income, can speak instead of pride. The owner might well meet with others feeling somewhat superior. And pride is the root sin of all the other deadly sins. A barely literate agricultural worker in a remote locality can access wisdom and the blessing it brings the Bible declares. A professor in a theological faculty, with access to innumerable library books and websites, can miss the fact that wisdom is inaccessible except through piety and the obedience which comes from living day by day within Kingdom precepts. This is very a very demanding task, we are unable to succeed without supernatural unction, and The Teacher, YHWH, promises this to us when we genuinely request it.

The Bible meta-narrative shows that God uses the unschooled and the highly educated, to advance the Kingdom. What is critical is their thirst for wisdom above knowledge and prestige.



*"God alone knows the way to Wisdom,
He knows the exact place to find it.
He knows where everything is on earth,
He sees everything under heaven.
After he commanded the winds to blow
and measured out the waters,
Arranged for the rain
and set off explosions of thunder and lightning,
He focused on Wisdom,
made sure it was all set and tested and ready.
Then he addressed the human race: 'Here it is!
Fear-of-the-Lord—that's Wisdom,
and Insight means shunning evil.'"*

Job 28:1-28

*Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling? Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice?
She's taken her stand at First and Main,
at the busiest intersection.
Right in the city square
where the traffic is thickest, she shouts,
"You—I'm talking to all of you,
everyone out here on the streets!
Listen, you idiots—learn good sense!
You blockheads—shape up!
Don't miss a word of this—I'm telling you how to live well,
I'm telling you how to live at your best.
My mouth chews and savors and relishes truth—
I can't stand the taste of evil!
You'll only hear true and right words from my mouth;
not one syllable will be twisted or skewed.
You'll recognize this as true—you with open minds;
truth-ready minds will see it at once.
Prefer my life-disciplines over chasing after money,
and God-knowledge over a lucrative career.
For Wisdom is better than all the trappings of wealth;
nothing you could wish for holds a candle to her.*

Proverbs 8:4-9

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. **Psalm 111:9-10***

*For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. **Luke 21:14-16***