

**Text: Proverbs 20:7**

**Title: “Street Smarts ... for Dads”**

Let's open our Bibles to Proverbs 20:7. We are living in a war zone. We have an enemy, Satan, whom Jesus said has come to steal, kill and destroy. We are surrounded by a sinful, confused culture, what Jesus called “the world,” that constantly tugs us in the wrong direction. And the reason that all this is a challenge to us is that our own selfish, sinful flesh is so vulnerable. For these reasons we need to continuously hear the wisdom of God to show us the way through the moral and spiritual fog in us and around us. God's Word is all wisdom, but in parts of the Bible, like Proverbs, there is a concentration of wise sayings ... what I have called “Street Smarts.” Proverbs says that this wisdom is crying out in the streets because we need wisdom in the streets of life where we live. One of the themes running throughout the book of Proverbs is the value of a wise father who imparts wisdom to his children. Several places in Proverbs you read where a father is saying, “My son (my child), listen to my wise words. Keep them and obey them and you will have a blessed life.” And...

**Proverbs 20:7 - The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.**

**THE MAN'S CHARACTER** - “The righteous man...” is a man who is just and right. He “leads a blameless life,” which means integrity. This describes not just a man who lives a good life; it's a man who lives a godly ... a Godward life.

**THE MAN'S INFLUENCE** – “Blessed are his children after him.” When his children follow his wise words and his upright walk they are blessed because God blesses those who walk after Him. Certainly there are children who are blessed in spite of the fact that their father wasn't all he should be. And there are dads who are righteous, but their children turn away from that path. But God's perfect plan is to impact children through godly fathers. This is the powerful impact of a dad.

To help me drive home this point today I have asked some friends to join me here on the stage. Our church is blessed with many strong families, great dads and children who are following in their steps. There are scores of dads and children who could have done this but I have asked: Mike Petersen and Andrew Petersen; John Milam and Elizabeth Gray; Tate Chesney and Caleb Chesney; Ed York and Debbie May.

**INTERVIEWS** - Dad, how did you try to make a godly impact on your children? Child, tell us of an occasion where something your dad did or said that made a godly impact upon you.”

Maybe you're a little discouraged at this point because your dad didn't do this for you. Maybe, dad, you're discouraged because you've made a lot of mistakes. In fact, the man who either composed or collected most of these proverbs was a man who didn't live up to them completely. Solomon, for all of his wisdom, failed in the second half of his life. The Bible says that he acted unwisely. He didn't rejoice in the wife of his youth, but instead took hundreds of wives for himself, many of them from pagan backgrounds. He didn't guard his heart like he taught his son to do, and those pagan wives turned his heart away to other gods. He ended his life not fearing the Lord, which the Bible says is the beginning of wisdom. When Solomon died his family and his kingdom fell apart because they turned their back on the Lord.

So today, we don't just look to Solomon, or to Mike or John or Tate or Ed. We look to Jesus. Jesus is the perfect reflection of what Chris Tomlin calls in his song a “Good, Good Father.” The OT predicted the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) would be preceded by a forerunner (John the Baptist):

**Malachi 4:6 - He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”**

Jesus came to show us the heart of the heavenly Father that is turned to His children; and children who must turn to their heavenly Father through Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “No one comes to the Father but through Me.”

Christ becomes for us the righteousness and wisdom of God. This righteousness is not found in us. It is imputed to us and imparted to us through Jesus Christ. Turn your heart to him today. Christ comes to live in us so that we can fulfill this...

**Proverbs 20:7 - The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.**

It's not how you start; it's how you finish.