

prize was rejected.

Tho's decision to not accept the prize created a huge stir, and for the first time in history, the committee was so much at odds that two members resigned. What could have driven Tho to turn away from such notoriety? What information did he have that informed his decision? Was his experience throughout the war evidence of what was to come? Or, was he simply using sound wisdom because the gift of peace is better than the gift of a prize?

CASE STUDY

Education of Profession?

One of the greatest difficulties facing many young people is deciding whether or not to: (1) fully engage in courses of study in grade school, (2) attend college or a trade school after high school graduation, and/or (3) go straight into the workforce. With the rising cost of higher education, the seeming lack of benefits upon graduation, and the constant rise in living wages, it becomes more and more difficult to choose knowledge over money.

Wisdom is gained in many forms; some pursue formal education (primary, secondary, and then higher education); others enter the workforce or begin a trade, often receiving on-the-job training and gaining knowledge and skill through

practice. Reflect on each of these paths to gaining wisdom. What can be involved with each? Which is preferred? How does one make a determination on which is better for an individual? The *Education (formal education)* group will list all the ways their topic affirms Proverbs 8. The *Profession (learning while working)* group will list all the ways their topic affirms Proverbs 8.

EDUCATION	PROFESSION

LIFE APPLICATION

In his 1967 tale, "Don't Be a Dropout," James Brown tells the sad story of what happens when one takes for granted the learning happening in structured spaces like school. At a time when education was a big push, his friend decided he would fare better out in the world. As a result, he rejected the teachings he learned and advice he was given. He saw no value in it until he reached a place where he needed it to get to the next level. Unable to go any further than where he was, he

laments over his choice to turn from instruction and knowledge. Though harsh in its messaging, the truth remains that "without an education (sound advice, instruction, understanding, and insight) you might as well be dead"... though not physically.

Education is the gift that keeps on giving.

The more we learn, the more we position ourselves to receive.

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As a closing act of devotion for this study session, reflect on these gifts of wisdom as recorded in Proverbs 8. Meditate on the list and identify the gifts which you want to acquire and how to use wisdom to go about acquiring them.

Good Advice (v. 14)

Sound Wisdom (v. 14)

Insight (v. 14)

Love (v. 17)

Riches (v. 18)

Honor (v. 18)

Wealth (v. 18)

Prosperity (v. 18)

Righteous Ways (v. 20)

Paths of Justice (v. 20)

CLOSING DEVOTION

The Gifts According To PROVERBS 8

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

June 15-June 21

Monday	1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (Christ, the Wisdom of God)
Tuesday	Job 1:1-5 (God Abundantly Rewards Job's Faithfulness)
Wednesday	Job 42:10-17 (God Restores Job's Family and Wealth)
Thursday	Proverbs 8:1-7 (Wisdom Calls the People to Respond)
Friday	Proverbs 8:22-31 (Wisdom Present and Active During Creation)
Saturday	Proverbs 8:32-36 (Choose Wisdom and Live)
Sunday	Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21 (Wisdom Affects All of Life)

KEY TERMS

- **Twisted** – Tortuous/not straight.
- **Right** – Pleasing.
- **Yield** – Revenue.
- **Crooked** – Perverted.
- **Choice** – Option.
- **Endowing** – Giving possession of.
- **Straight** – Plain, straightforward.
- **Enduring** – Surpassing/lasting.
- **Treasury** – Storehouse.

INTRODUCTION

Riley B. King, the son of sharecroppers, spent his formative years in the fields picking cotton and going to church. He dropped out of school during his teenage years and, instead, continued his work in the fields while playing odd gigs. Throughout his life, he received all types of accolades, awards, and even honorary degrees for being a pioneer in the blues genre of music. He was successful. The world knew King's name. There was one thing he never acquired, which he pushed the younger generation to obtain, and that

When you learn the voice of wisdom and buy in to the need to pursue her, only then does one learn to trust wisdom's words.

was an education.

In the 2008 interview with Billy Walker of *USA Today*, King described the significance of the then brand new \$15 million B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center. Knowing the benefits and rewards of education, Riley "B.B." King wanted it "to help people who are hungry for knowledge." He was not shy about sharing his own fears of what life would have been like without his music, since he himself did not have an education. He acknowledged the struggles he encountered despite his

fame and notoriety. He held the firm belief that education was and is important, and wanted young people to understand "that (his brain and their brain) is like a sponge." And, King urged them to be "interested in anything out there." Why? Because King knew "the beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

When you learn the voice of wisdom and buy in to the need to pursue her, only then does one learn to trust

THE GIFTS OF WISDOM

Lesson Scripture: Job 1; 42; Proverbs 8

Focus Scripture: Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

Key Verse: Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. Proverbs 8:10-11 (NRSV)

PROVERBS 8:8-14, 17-21 (NRSV)

Proverbs 8:8-14

8 All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

9 They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge.

10 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;

11 for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

12 I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion.

13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

14 I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength.

17-21

17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity.

19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,

21 endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

PROVERBS 8:8-14, 17-21 (KJV)

Proverbs 8:8-14

8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

17-21

17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

18 Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasuries.