

## YOUNG MAN SEEKING WISDOM

By Duane Starkey

One morning a young man determined to go find wisdom. He searched the internet and found the names of the most prominent Christian leaders and where they were located. He selected three that had the highest rating and started his journey.

The first wise man that he met with gave him the following advice. “ You must decide in your heart what is right and wrong for you to do. To be able to do that, you must write the commandments that Christ taught on your heart and never forsake them. They will be a compass for your soul and direct your walk in life.”

The young man thanked him and went his way, pondering the advice as he journeyed.

The second wise man took a little different approach. He told the young man these words, “You are young and have certain desires and habits that you hold in secret that you have decided to fulfill. You are seeking silver and gold for your treasure and world acclaim for recognition and approval. These things must be surrendered and given up as your primary goals. This will make it possible to change your ways and will allow your life to go in a different direction.”

Once again the young man spoke his gratitude and continued his journey.

The third wise man offered a change in focus. He said to the young man, “You must learn to pay attention to others and what their needs and desires are. Hear their words and see what you can do to help them better their lives. If they need money or clothing and shelter, share what you have with them. It might not be much, but the effort will be rewarding to you both. Loving others as you love yourself is the second commandment that Christ spoke on earth. This covers all the commandments that followed the first which is Love and worship God as the only true God with all your being. Learn and practice this and wisdom will be your constant companion.”

The young man went his way, marveling at all that had been told him. While he was going home, he met another man that was friendly and smiling. The young

man decided to talk with the fourth man and tell him what all he had learned. After listening carefully to all the young man said, the fourth man responded with the following advice. "you are still young and have all your life before you. Why should you forsake dreams and goals that mean so much. Making money and having fun, enjoying beautiful women and living rich is not a bad thing. Those old wise men had their day and now it's your turn. When you get old then you can do what they told you. Besides, you want to do all this for your family and children that you will have. Be smart and do your own thing while you can, before it's too late."

The young man was puzzled and confused by what he heard. Part of him wanted to agree with the fourth man and part of him wanted to disagree. The words made good sense to his mind, but felt wrong in his heart. He thought about it for a while and finally made a decision. He told the fourth man, "I don't agree with you. I want a better purpose in my life than just for myself. All that stuff you mentioned will fade away or be lost and then I will have an empty life when I get old. Besides, none of that goes in your coffin with you when you die. What you said to me is the wisdom of this world and not truth in God's wisdom."

The young man rose to leave when the fourth man stopped him and said, "you did not recognize me in my disguise." The fourth man removed his mask and the young man saw himself in the other man's face. Then the fourth man said this was a test of your quest for wisdom. Overcoming self and taking control of your actions and emotions is true wisdom for life. The Master's wisdom in you will allow you to master your life.

The wise young man went his way, praising and thanking God for wisdom today.

Amen

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