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## Whoever Finds Me Finds Life

### 8: 32-36

**A proverb is a short and memorable saying designed to be our blueprint for living in the world that ADONAI has created. It is important to note that proverbs are not promises; they are generally true principles, all other things being equal.**



The tug of war between **Lady Wisdom** and **foolishness** for the loyalty of the heart is constant in **Proverbs**. It will dominate the argument of **Chapter 9**. Here it is featured in a stark, yet simple, summary of how **Lady Wisdom** sees the issues. They are white and black. Since **Lady Wisdom** is the personification of **Yeshua Messiah** (**to see link click [Bl](#) - Wisdom's Existence before Creation**), the **Lord** can now rightly say: **Now then, My children, listen to Me, for blessed are those who keep My ways (8:32 NIV). Listen to my instruction and be wise. Don't ignore it (8:33 NLT).** Other than salvation itself, **the Wisdom of Messiah** is the one and only true necessity in your life. And you must embrace **Him** completely. **Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home** which **Wisdom** built (**8:34 Hebrew**). **Keep a constant look-out for her, and whenever possible be in close contact with her. Stress is laid upon an unflinching conformity with Lady Wisdom's teachings. The principles are to be remembered and practiced in all circumstances, not only when they are convenient.**

The two final verses of **Chapter 9** unpack the most severe consequences of accepting or rejecting **Lady Wisdom** . . . seeing it as a matter of **life** and **death**. The way to eternal life is the outcome of embracing **wisdom**, while the way to **death** is the consequence of choosing **foolishness**. The promise of **life** is meant to be starkly contrasted with the shadowy threat of **death**.<sup>195</sup> Therefore. We need to grab hold of **Yeshua Messiah**, the crucified **Friend of sinners** and never let go. **For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from ADONAI (8:35 CJB). Wisdom gives life (3:18, 4:4 and 22, 7:2, 9:11, and 19:23), and ADONAI's favor (12:2 and 18:22).** The word **favor** (Hebrew: *ratson*), is used 14 times in **Proverbs**, and means *acceptance, goodwill, or approval*. It comes from the verb *rastah*, meaning *to be pleased with*. **John** said it this way: **Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life (First John 5:12).**

One such man who had to make this choice was **Nicodemus**, and **he** was on the horns of a dilemma. **He** could plainly see the miracles that **Yeshua** was doing; yet, **He** did not fit the mold of Pharisaic Judaism, meaning, **the Nazarene** did not believe in **the traditions of the elders (Mark 7:5)**. So **he** came to **the Master** by night. **Yeshua**, who **knew what was in each person**, understood what was really going on in **Nicodemus'** heart. **The Lord** ignored **his** initial flattery and, instead, answered a question **he** didn't even ask. Without confirming, denying, refuting or even acknowledging **Nicodemus'** statement that **He** was from **God**, **Yeshua** gave an answer that demonstrated **His** omniscience. **Messiah** confronted **Nicodemus** with the fact that **he** had missed the mark of reaching **the Kingdom**. Immediately getting to the heart of the matter, **He** replied: **Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again (John 3:3).** That is **Wisdom**. Our **Savior** called for nothing less than complete surrender. Without such a spiritual rebirth, **He** told **His** nighttime visitor, no one has any hope of attaining **eternal life**. There was no middle ground. No compromise.

Rejecting **Lady Wisdom** results in **harm (6:32, 7:23, and 9:12b)**. **But he who sins** (Hebrew: *chata*, meaning *to miss the mark*) **against me does violence to himself. All who hate me** (Hebrew: *sane*, signifies a willful turning away from **Lady Wisdom**, not just an indifference to **her**) **love death (2:18-22, 5:5, and 7:27)**. The irony is, if you protect yourself from **Him**, you **do violence to yourself (8:36 Hebrew)**. *Chata* can refer to doing something against **ADONAI** or against a person (**Ex 10:16**), doing the opposite of what is right (**Gal 5:17**), doing something that will have negative results (**Proverbs 24:33-34**), and failing to do something

you know is right (**Num 15:27**). As **Romans 3:23** says, sin is a general term that **falls short of the glory of God (Psalm 51:1-2)**. Thus, **Wisdom** is the path to **life** and **foolishness** is the path to **death**. These are our only two choices.<sup>196</sup>

**Without Wisdom, there is no true life; however, with Wisdom, there is no true death.** **Solomon** is unclear about any offer of eternal life, but **Yeshua** is very clear about the eternal security of the believer (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ms - The Eternal Security of the Believer**). All of **Yeshua's** disciples would do well to study **wisdom**. For us, the study of **Wisdom** is a form of **worship**. When we see **God's Wisdom** principles in the world, our faith is strengthened and the truth of **His Word** is made clear to us. **Wisdom** is no secular study. It is part of the worship of **ADONAI** who made it. **Wisdom** reveals the hand of a **wise Creator**.<sup>197</sup> But we have not yet heard the last from **Yeshua's** personification of **Lady Wisdom**. As we turn to **Chapter 9**, we hear **her** voice again in a way that will help us to identify **her** more closely. In addition, we will be introduced to another woman: **Madam Folly, Lady Wisdom's** rival.