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Proverbs
Chapter 3 - A Most Valuable Heritage
Unshakable Confidence (vs. 19-26)

Proverbs 3:19-26:

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth,
By understanding He established the heavens.

By His knowledge the deeps were broken up
And the skies drip with dew.

My son, let them not vanish from your sight;
Keep sound wisdom and discretion,

So they will be life to your soul
And adornment to your neck.

Then you will walk in your way securely
And your foot will not stumble.

When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Do not be afraid of sudden fear
Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;

For the LORD will be your confidence
And will keep your foot from being caught.

What is the inheritance that you desire to leave your family, your children, your household?
What is the heritage? Well, according to Proverbs 3, we can leave the heritage of the favor of God upon us; that if we'll fear God, keep His commandments, do what He says, the favor of God will be with us. Peter will give an interesting picture of the glory of God resting upon us. That's a wonderful picture, isn't it? The glory of God upon us. You know, you can actually tell the difference; you can tell when you're not walking in the favor of God and when you are. There is

a sense in which you almost feel lifted up above the things of the world and the cares of the world and the great confidence that God can give you. You want to pass on the favor of God and the favor of man that comes because you're right with God. For God can make even your enemies to be at peace with you. You want to pass on a sense of where you get your direction, divine direction. In other words, teaching those around you how to listen to God, how to hear what He's saying. Get them in the Word of God. Let them see the practicality of Scripture and how it directs their past. Don't be wise in your own estimation, but in all your ways, acknowledge Him and He'll make your path straight. God will direct your ways. You can give them a sense of a cure for what ails them, so to speak; that it will be strength to your bones. God will actually strengthen their body by virtue of the fact that they're right with God. I mean, God does heal, and we're not just talking about the physical. Of course, there are no limits to God, is there? We like to compartmentalize and say that "God works in these areas, but He doesn't work in these." That's not true. He works in all the areas, but if you think about it, most of what ails us really comes from our emotions. God is directing us in a realm in which He'll give us a cure for those things, and you want to pass on where to go to the doctor. It's your desire to point to the right direction, and that you want to remind your family that there are going to be times that God is going to correct them, but that's a good thing. That's a good thing, because when God corrects us, it is always for our good, and He's taken us off of a realm and a path in which we would self-destruct. As the psalmist says, "It was good that I was afflicted. Had I not, I would have gone astray. I would have gone into an area that would have destroyed my own life." These are things that you want to pass on to your family members; a sense of a blissful existence. Think about that, that you could actually be happy. Where does happiness come from? A good reminder is that Ecclesiastes 2 that reminds us that it would be impossible to have joy without God, for God is the one that gives both wisdom and joy to those that are good in His sight. So, what is it telling us? That actually, happiness comes from God, and if you'll be right with Him, then you can have happiness. I tell you, that would save you a lot of money, because you think about how much money people spend to try to find some facsimile of happiness, and it's almost impossible.

We're going to be looking at today specifically is that wonderful gift of unshakable confidence. The fact that you want to pass on a sense of peace, a sense of fearlessness. It uses some interesting words within the passage, and if you look with me in Proverbs 3:23, he talks about that you can walk in security, and no matter where you go, you can feel secure.

(Proverbs 3:23) "Then you will walk in your way securely
And your foot will not stumble.

(Proverbs 3:24) When you lie down, you will not be afraid..."

You know those thoughts start rolling on your mind and you begin to think through all kinds of scenarios and thoughts that just weigh you down and don't let you go to sleep? Well, you can go to sleep and not be afraid.

“... Do not be afraid of sudden fear
Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;

(Proverbs 3:26) For the LORD will be your confidence...”

He starts off in verse 23,

“Then you will walk in your way securely...”

“*Beṭah*” is the word that he uses within the text. It refers to a carelessness in the sense of you're so not afraid of anything, that you're almost careless. It's almost like walking on the edge of a cliff and just hanging over. “But aren't you afraid?” “No, not afraid.” It's a great picture because it's telling us that you literally don't have to be afraid of anything. What a great thought that is, to live a life free from anxieties and fears that so easily weigh us down. “Be anxious for nothing.” Think about that, “nothing.” God is telling us that we can have great confidence, and the confidence will be the Lord, and we're going to look at the end of that as we come. Now, the question is, where does this all come from? And the answer begins in verse 19, because in verse 19 he begins to take us in this place in which we can literally pass on a sense of confidence and security and peace and fearlessness that God has in store for us. Where does it begin? Well, it begins with God. The point is that you want to look at how God does things. Of course, he's been saying all along that divine wisdom, the wisdom that God gives you, is what gives you all these things. Divine wisdom will give you the favor and God's direction. It'll give you healing. It will give you all these things that we've been talking about. In this particular context, God's wisdom, divine wisdom, wisdom from above is going to give you a sense of security that you will literally be fearless. Great picture, isn't it? If you look in verse 19, he gives an interesting example of the wisdom of God, and what wisdom of God looks like.

(Proverbs 3:19) “The LORD by wisdom founded the earth...”

A little word within the text that you might want to circle, “by,” almost in some way takes wisdom, and it becomes something more than an attribute. It's one of the things that you see as you go through the Book of Proverbs that wisdom becomes personified. Wisdom, “she calls in the streets,” Scripture will say, and by the time you come to Proverbs 8, you'll read that wisdom, in the creation of the world, was beside Him. It actually uses the phrase, “beside Him.” Scripture will define this in the New Testament in particular, as the word “hypostasis.” Now, the word that is used is found in particular in Hebrews 11, that “faith is the substance.” We'll use the word “hypostasis.” Faith is substance. He's actually saying that faith is the personification,

it's manifestation; it's something that is real, substantive, more specifically. There is a reason why God does this sense of taking wisdom, and He puts it off to the side and then He gives them a sense of personage, because He wants you to see it as substantive. I'll give you some examples of this.

John 1:14 tells us that the Word of God, the Word, which you know word is not substantive, seemingly, but it says that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. It's an interesting picture of something that seems to be more ethereal and more spiritual, and it goes into the realm of the tangible.

Proverbs 8:30 says, "Then I (wisdom) was beside Him, as a master workman..."

It's like somebody's right there working hard.

Genesis 1:1, in the Jerusalem Targum, and I'm not going to go into the detail of this, but as we've been looking in Genesis 1, it starts off, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Actually, in the Jewish Targum, the way it reads is, "In the beginning, by wisdom, God created the heavens and the earth." It actually uses the words "by wisdom."

And you see this in Psalm 33:6, the words actually being used back and forth; wisdom, the word of God.

(Psalm 33:6) "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made..."

It's making the word tangible, and it's saying the word did this. "By the word," by wisdom, things were made.

It says in John 1:1-3, He was in the beginning.

(John 1:2) "He (the Word) was in the beginning with God."

(John 1:3) "All things came into being through Him..."

What? The Word. Once again, we're seeing this sense of tangibility.

In 1 Corinthians 1:30 it reads this way,

"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God..."

Christ came to us, wisdom from God. I can just imagine the disciples going, "Yeah, and we leaned against Him. We touched Him. We hugged Him. He was real. The word became flesh." So, Scripture is wanting us to know that wisdom founded; that something real, something tangible, is happening. It's also wanting us to see this relationship that God has with wisdom, with word, though the two are one. It is almost like a marriage in the sense, and when you consider that the two become one in a marriage, you realize that from that marriage, then

children are born. The point of the whole marriage thing and children coming from and out of the relationship is that you can only build a house that comes from a relationship. Of course, we now today try to implant and try to build homes without the relationship first, but Scripture is telling us the necessity of a relationship to build something firm, thus the name "son," "bēn" in Hebrew means "building block." So, when we're seeing this phrase about the foundation, what we're understanding is that it starts with a relationship, and it then becomes tangible. You'll see as that goes on.

(Proverbs 3:19) "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth..."

Now, the emphasis of the phrase is that God is doing something permanent; it's fixed. It's going to be there. God builds foundations that don't move.

The way that Solomon puts it in Ecclesiastes 3:14,

"I know that everything God does will remain forever..."

That's a great picture, isn't it? The point of the text is that he's going to start off with telling the young man, "You want God's wisdom because He builds forever, and everything He builds is on a foundation of relationship." A very interesting picture that he gives us.

(Proverbs 3:19) "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth,
By understanding He established the heavens."

"Understanding" gives the connotation, of course, within the text of somebody that is comprehending what's going on.

Proverbs 24, if you look with me, gives this great picture of a house. I like the way that it's put. In fact, probably some of you have this in your home, and if you don't, it might be a good thing to have.

(Proverbs 24:3) "By wisdom a house is built,
And by understanding it is established;

(Proverbs 24:4) And by knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches."

Scripture is telling us that understanding is a part in this and when you consider that wisdom is that which is the foundation, it is making reference specifically to the ability to make the right choices at the right time. If I were to describe what wisdom he's talking about, it's the ability to make the right choices at the right time; the wisdom of God. That's what is permanent, God's wisdom. Once again, go back to that fundamental point and the sense of understanding how it interplays. Peter will tell us men in particular, in 1 Peter 3, that we need to live with our wives in an understanding way, and by virtue of this, it establishes. Now, the two places that he

describes is the earth and the heavens, and I think sometimes the perception is he's talking about the third heaven and he's actually not. He's talking about the skies and the things that God had created that we see. So, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament show forth His handiwork" is the heavens that we see. So, you have the atmosphere, so to speak, that God has created for man, and you have the earth, "terra firma," that God has created. So, you have the foundation, and you have the earth. Now, what he's going to do in verse 20 is explain how He does this and why it's so important for us to set our focus on how God does things.

(Proverbs 3:20) "By His knowledge the deeps were broken up
And the skies (heavens) drip with dew."

You could actually put in the phrase "with rain." God bestows the rain, and He breaks up the strongholds. What is God doing?

In some way, this is kind of repeated in Job 38. If you look there with me in Job 38, you'll see, to some effect, this same word, the breaking up; the bursting forth would probably be a better description of the word mentioned in Job 38, as God begins to describe to Job His great power in creation.

(Job 38:8) "Or who enclosed the sea with doors
When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb."

The "bursting forth" is a pretty interesting picture, isn't it? The picture is one bringing forth life in the text.

Then, as you go into Genesis 1:9, you see God gathering together the water and the land and making it habitable. The point is that God is making the earth not only habitable but beneficial to man, but the emphasis is in breaking up or bursting forth we see His great strength. Now, the point is that God will oftentimes give great strength or give you strength to do something. In every case, it is to benefit somebody else. It is not for you to glory in. I know we live in glory days, but the purpose of what you have and how God in His wisdom used His great power to give us a habitable place to live, to give us a place of great benefit; the gathering place, so to speak.

(Job 38:9) "When I made a cloud its garment
And thick darkness its swaddling band."

You can almost feel the comforting that comes with the clouds and the rain, more specifically.

Psalms 77 will use this “bursting forth” phrase, in particular, in which God parts the sea. You see God using His great power to, what? Save; to rescue. It is the wisdom of God to use power that way.

If you back up into Job 36:27, you see that wonderful picture of the rain that comes from the sky and God's grace. I oftentimes think of Matthew 5, that He causes the rain to fall on the righteous and the unrighteous. It's the grace of God, isn't it?

(Job 36:27) “For He draws up the drops of water,
They distill rain from the mist,

(Job 36:28) Which the clouds pour down,
They drip upon man abundantly.”

The grace and the kindness of God.

You can see this as well if you look with me in Isaiah 55. It's great to turn to these passages, just to even know where they are, because it reminds us of His grace. In this passage, we oftentimes are drawn to the fact that God's thoughts are not our thoughts; as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are His ways greater than ours, and our focus is on that, and that's a good place to be in our focus.

(Isaiah 55:6) “Seek the LORD while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.”

You begin to realize that God works in a way that is far greater than us.

He begins to describe the way that God works in verse 10,

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven...”

See, this in the context of, “All right, God doesn't think like you do.” I suppose that for the most part, we'd be thinking in terms of “Get him!” or something to that extent.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

(Isaiah 55:11) So will My word be...”

You know, there are opportunities that we have and there are times that we can speak powerfully about things, but when we do, it needs to be as, well, the way that Moses puts it in Deuteronomy 32, “Let my speech be as the dew from heaven.” Only such a word is as good for the moment, right? So, the passage is beginning to make reference to the fact that everything

that God does, He is using power and skill, He is using His grace and refreshment for the purpose of producing benefit, serviceable things to man; that He's causing good and He's causing growth. Within the passage, it's very clear.

(Isaiah 55:2) "Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy? ..."

"Come to Me if you're thirsty."

If you look at Isaiah 55:1, "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters..."

That's almost directly quoted when Jesus goes and proclaims in the temple, in John 7, He says, "Come to Me. I'm the fountain of life and I'll give you living waters without cost. I like that, "without cost" when you look at the end of verse 1 of this passage. It's God who gives peace and He gives drink, and He gives strength to the thirsting soul, and He quenches. Well, that's basically Psalm 104, "As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after Thee." God has given us these physical, tangible things in creation to help us come into the realm of the real. The real being my thirst for God and the relationship with Him. All the way through in these particular passages, you begin to see the necessity for that kind of walk.

James 3 will probably say it best as he begins to describe this kind of wisdom that we are so drawn to because of the fact that it gives us such stability. We think that we know what to do in particular occasions, so we wing it a lot of times and by winging it, by doing what we think is right, we find ourselves in not only a whole heap of trouble, but a lot of sorrow and pain. If you look with me in James 3, you begin to realize that we really don't know what wisdom is.

(James 3:13) "Who among you is wise and understanding? ..."

I could just see the hands going up, you know?

"... Let him show by his good behavior..."

Now, this is the point that we were getting at in the very beginning of the text, in verse 19, that God is wanting to demonstrate to us that wisdom is tangible just as our faith is tangible. This is why James will say faith without works is nonexistent. In other words, let me see the tangibility of your faith, because faith always works. It does something, just like love. Love seems like an intangible object, and yet love always displays itself in real, tangible ways.

"Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior," not by his philosophy, not by his academic exercise, but by "his deeds." It's like wisdom has become personified. It's like wisdom has become real because wisdom is substantive.

"... Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom."

(James 3:14) But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

(James 3:15) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.”

Obviously, not the rain that comes down from heaven. His point is really clear because it goes on and says in verse 16,

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”

Now, here's the point, that man when he does things his way, his wisdom, his perception, “I know what to do. I know what to do.” Every single time, he destroys and causes disorder and chaos instead of building. He not only can't build anything permanent, but he also can't build. He tears down, he destroys. I mean, if you look at the result here in verse 16, “where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there's disorder,” confusion, chaos, instability. You want to know why there's so much instability around? Because everybody is going their own way, thinking that they know what is best and you know the mouth just goes out there and says whatever it's going to say. The question you have to ask yourself is, “Has anything here been built of any value that is permanent?” “No.” Well, then you didn't build with wisdom, because when God builds, it starts with the relationship, and it goes into permanence. Everything that God builds is like forever. That's why Ephesians 4 says, ok, you're going to talk, but only such a word that's good for the moment, as good to build up; that which will actually produce something of value; lasting words that we can have. We're building a city. I don't know if you know that or not. We're in a process of building things that are going to be a part of an eternal city, the city called Jerusalem. We have an eternal home. Scripture tells us that the treasures that we have we can have in heaven forever. We're building treasures in heaven forever. Something real. We're going to see Him someday. We're going to touch Him someday. We're going to feel Him someday. Imagine being in the presence of fullness of joy and touching it and letting it be a part of your life; living in it. God has great things in store for us and how these things that are oftentimes perceived as spiritual entities are really tangible in the heavens.

As you come into this text, verse 17, it goes on and describes that which is eternal.

(James 3:17) “But the wisdom from above...”

So, where does it begin? Well, it begins back with God. The word “pure” here in the text is actually “*hagnos*” which is referring to a reverence for God. Now, out of that comes purity; out of that comes, of course, morality, but the emphasis of the word is that you have a reverence for God. The beginning of wisdom, as Proverbs says, is the fear of the Lord. That's where it starts. So, Scripture is saying this is what you build on, because once you start there, you're

looking at the way God does things. What does He use His strength for? What does He use His power for? To service; to help; to give habitable possession of places. He takes the waters, and He moves them over here, and He puts the land here and He goes, "This is for you." And we've been reading in Genesis, "Ok, this garden, this is for you. The best of the best for you." If in fact man will think this way, he can begin to produce things eternal. Scripture is telling us, "Think this way."

"... wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable..."

Strangely enough, the word itself seems to have its root in Hebrews 12:11, and in that particular passage, it says "peaceable" is a byproduct of God's discipline on us; that sense of calm, that sense of harmony that we have in our life, that sense of oneness as the Greek would make reference to, fulfillment in our lives. Where does that come from? That comes from the discipline of God and us submitting to that discipline. He literally says in Hebrews 12:11 that you'll get this peace if you will. Wonderful passage. So, wisdom from above is first reverent. Then, it's literally desirous of submitting to God's discipline. It'll go on to say "gentle," which is basically mild mannered, "reasonable," willing to yield and obey to whatever He tells you to do. Then, "full of mercy and good fruits." You see the results of this. As soon as you begin to align with what God is telling you to do and submitting your will to Him, then what comes out of that is a sense of mercy and care for other people.

Peter will make reference to the fact that as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble. That's an interesting tie, isn't it? Because what he's saying is that by virtue of you walking in wisdom, you actually build something not only eternal, but immovable, unshakable; a sense of confidence, so to speak.

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering..." You see that sense of stability? I love the way that's put. The emphasis as well is that you're unambiguous. In other words, you're very certain about the things that God says, and that's how Proverbs is going to end, God will give you confidence. Of course, the Holy Spirit is confidence within you, isn't it? But that sense of unshakable; it doesn't matter what happens, you're fearless.

(James 3:18) "And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Revelation gives this wonderful picture of the New Jerusalem. Jerusalem means "city of peace," right? A sense of well-being coming down from heaven.

The way that it's put in Hebrews 11:10, that Abraham was not investing in this world but looking for the city who has foundations from God. God is the one that built it.

“... whose architect and builder is God.”

Scripture is telling us that divine wisdom builds. It builds eternal stuff. It builds stuff that's unshakable. Hebrews 12 will go into this, saying that we have a kingdom that is unshakable. Scripture is telling us that there's a power in us that can't be dissuaded or moved. Paul talks about in Ephesians, don't be like children driven and tossed by every wind and wave of doctrine. But God gives us a sense of stability. As we begin to walk in the wisdom of God, more specifically, as we begin to think and ask ourselves very simple questions, “What will benefit?” and “What is lasting?” Are those the two things that you really see within the text? Who is the foundation? Where is the foundation? Where does it come from? You go into, of course, that no man can build upon a foundation other than the one that is laid, which is Christ Jesus. Scripture is telling us that strength comes from the relationship with God. That's where it begins, and out of that relationship, you begin to think like Him. You begin to act like Him; you begin to pursue the same things that He pursues.

If you look in Proverbs 3, it begins to describe to us that when we walk by the way, we can walk securely, our feet will not stumble, as Scripture has been telling us all the way up to this point. If you'll look in verse 24,

(Proverbs 3:24) “When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

(Proverbs 3:25) Do not be afraid of sudden fear
Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes.”

That would be fear of destruction and ruin in which the people come after you. You're not upset about that. You're not afraid. It's telling us that our stability has nothing to do with the external things that are happening around us; that we can actually be at peace in the midst of the storm. Christ fell asleep on the boat in the middle of the storm. So, it's a great picture.

(Proverbs 3:26) “For the LORD will be your...”

What? “Confidence.” Strange word. The word itself means “flank.” The picture itself is the thigh. Now, if you're familiar with the story of Jacob, you'll get the connection. The connection is that we have a guy by the name of Jacob, and he's the supplanter. More specifically, this is a guy that tries to work out his own way of doing things. Obviously, he wants the blessings of God, but he's going to make it happen. So, he does things by subterfuge, by lying, by deception, and how does it turn out for him? Well, things do proceed from bad to worse, and of course, he ends up with somebody that's worse than he is in all those things. But the day comes when he's going to have to face the things that he's created; the hatred of his brother, the destruction of and the deception of his father-in-law. He's put himself in this position, but God graciously has

allowed the consequences to roll out, but the day is coming when he's going to have to meet his brother face to face and he begins to fear this. Everything seems to be pretty wonderful and powerful up to a point, until it's not. Then, things begin to fail, and you begin to realize, "Wow, I should never have done that." He had one of those moments and it was a moment in which he began to wrestle with the angel, and wouldn't you know, the angel touched his thigh.

I, not too long ago, cracked my kneecap, and it was amazing how unconfident I felt walking places. Scripture is telling us that you can walk in confidence with God, but you've got to stop trusting in yourself. You've got to stop thinking that you're the answer. It was the grace of God to touch that. In fact, Scripture says, to this day that Jews don't eat from that thigh area because of Jacob. It's a reminder that we should not trust in our own strength. We should not trust in our own power. It is one of the biggest bones, and it is a picture of confidence to the Jews and to many people. God doesn't want us to think in terms of "what can I do," He wants us to put all of our trust in Him and He wants us to think His way. When you think in terms of doing things for others and holding others in higher esteem than yourself, the perception is, "How is that going to be good for me?" And God says, "You're building something very, very, very strong that will be forever."

There's an interesting passage, and you wouldn't necessarily think that the word "wisdom" would be found in it, but it's found in Luke 11, as Jesus begins to talk to the disciples specifically about what is really important. It's in a great setting in which the Pharisees, the lawyers, we'll call them "the wise guys," the wisdom of men actually comes against God.

(Luke 11:45) "One of the lawyers said to Him in reply, "Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too."

(Luke 11:46) But He said, "Woe to you lawyers as well! ..."

Not concerned about insulting them, obviously.

"... For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear..."

Isn't that what man does? Instead of helping people, he weighs them down. Instead of lifting burdens, he puts pressure on them.

"... while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers."

(Luke 11:47) "Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and it was your fathers who killed them."

Really, I guess the only thing that man really builds well are tombs. That's probably about the only thing he really builds well.

(Luke 11:48) “So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs.

(Luke 11:49) “For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute.’”

You're going, “Wait, wait, wait. Wisdom of God?” Who would have thought the wisdom of God would have been to send people to save? Who would have thought that would be wisdom? Do you know by name the people that killed the prophets? You know by name the prophets that died. They won't be forgotten. There's an eternal remembrance because they laid aside that which was good for them to build something that was eternal in heaven in order that,

“...the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation.”

A testimony was built that would be an everlasting testimony. There are times that you and I, it's going to seem like we have the short end of the stick if in fact we decide to think in terms of the wisdom of God rather than the wisdom of man. But just think of what the wisdom of God produces. Not only will it benefit those around, but it will give you stability. Stability to such a degree that you won't be afraid of anything, even to the point of death. You will literally be fearless. I can't think of a better heritage to pass on than the heritage of confidence.

Scripture tells us in Acts 4 that they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke with all boldness. These were just fishermen. How in the world could they have boldness? They're unlearned men. That's a good question, “How in the world?”

Closing Prayer:

Father, we give You thanks for the blessings above that supersede the things of this earth. How wonderful it is that You would make wisdom real, that it would become a part of our lives to the degree that we would touch lives and lives would be changed. Our lives would be secure. A peace that passes all understanding would come upon us, and we wouldn't be afraid anymore. How amazing Your wisdom is. How gracious You were to cause wisdom to become flesh and dwell among us. For Your Son became wisdom to us, and in that we had salvation and sanctification and redemption.

With your heads bowed and your eyes closed, what Scripture is asking you to do is to think about what will last, about what is unshakable, what will endure, and invest in those things. Think upon those things, live in that way. Scripture is not telling you to philosophy about it, it's telling you to live in it, and it's telling you that it begins with a relationship with Christ Jesus Himself, wisdom Himself.

