

MAIN POINT

True wisdom reveals that direction, not intention, determines our destination.

INTRODUCTION

How would you explain the saying, “actions speak louder than words”?

How have you experienced the reality of action speaking louder than words?

It is fairly easy to say the right thing in a given situation. Yet, it is something else entirely to act in accordance with the things we say. Anyone can make a statement that sounds good and is approved by others, but we show the worth of our words when we back up our promises with action that shows we truly mean what we say. This week, we are considering that it is direction, not intention, that determines our destination. We may intend to follow Christ faithfully, but unless we follow this intention with action and direction, our intention does us no good.

DISCUSSION

> READ PROVERBS 7:1-27.

Why is it important to heed the advice of wise people that speak into our lives?

How does listening to those who have more wisdom than us begin the path of good direction and not only good intention?

Looking at verse 7, what about this young man and his circumstances foreshadowed that something unfortunate was likely to happen?

In verse 10-13, what do you notice about the description of the woman's character and behavior? What warning signs are there that she would not lead the man in the right direction?

Look at the words of the woman in verses 14-20. What did she appeal to in order to convince this young man to lie with her? How would such an appeal sound today?

Discuss the woman's use of religion in her appeal. How might using religious devotion to justify her behavior appeal to this young man? What are some religious arguments that support immoral behavior today?

What effect did the woman's speech have on this young man? How is this instructive for us?

What advice and warnings did the father give to his son? How does this point to the reality that it is direction, not intention, that determines one's destination?

How is all of the Christian life a call toward good direction and not only good intention?

APPLICATION

In following Christ, where have you failed to follow good intention with good direction? What needs to change?