

GOD'S WISDOM FOR LIFE, PART 2: "THE ENTICEMENT OF SINNERS"

PROVERBS 1:8-19

Ps. Jeffrey Susila

Personal Introduction

Hi everyone. If you don't know me, I'm Jeff - one of the pastors at HMCC of Jakarta. And it's my privilege to be preaching the Word of God for us today.

Sermon Series Introduction

Last week, we just started a new sermon series through the book of Proverbs, called "God's Wisdom for Life."

Today, we'll be continuing with part 2, titled "The Enticement of Sinners."

Before we begin, let me pray for us.

Sermon Introduction

Let's start with an ice breaker question: What's the one kind of food that you keep going back to again & again?

If you have an answer already, maybe you can just share it quickly to the person sitting next to you - What's the one food that is difficult for you to say "no" to?

For me... it's hard to resist a good burger. When I'm looking through the menu at a restaurant, I may just be flipping through the pages quickly. But then when I get to the burgers section, I stop. And I look at the pictures... and if there's a picture of a good burger in front of me, it's hard to say "no." Because you see this fluffy brioche buns, you see this juicy beef patty, you see this delicious-looking sauce that's oozing out. And you see a generous amount of golden brown fries on the side. It's almost impossible for me to say "no" to that.

Each of us may have that one food that's really *enticing* for us. It may be pizza... or nasi padang... or martabak coklat dan keju...

And actually, we're not just enticed by certain kinds of food... but in life, many things can actually be enticing & alluring to us - like money, success, and popularity.

In our passage today, we're reminded that one of those things that's actually gonna be enticing & alluring to us is *sin*. And we may know sin is bad, but even then... maybe each of us also has that one sin that's difficult for us to say "no" to.

So in our passage today, that's what we'll be looking into - "The Enticement of Sinners."

Scripture Introduction

If you have your Bibles with you, please turn to Proverbs 1:8-19.

Last week, we learned that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

- And so we learned that the wise are actually those who fear the Lord, and the foolish are those who do not fear the Lord.
- The wise are humble, and teachable, and continue to grow in wisdom.
- While the foolish are prideful - they're not open to listen to instruction, and they're not teachable.

The book of Proverbs continues...

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 1:8-19 (ESV)

- ⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.
¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you,
do not consent.
¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;
let us ambush the innocent without reason;
¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
¹³ we shall find all precious goods,
we shall fill our houses with plunder;
¹⁴ throw in your lot among us;
we will all have one purse"—
¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them;
hold back your foot from their paths,
¹⁶ for their feet run to evil,
and they make haste to shed blood.
¹⁷ For in vain is a net spread
in the sight of any bird,
¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood;
they set an ambush for their own lives.
¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain;
it takes away the life of its possessors.

This is God's Word.

The One Thing

***Listen to wise instruction & teaching,
not to sin's temptation though it'll be enticing.***

Overview

- I. **The wisdom of a father (vv. 8-9)**
- II. **The enticement of sinners (vv. 10-19)**
 - A. Sin will be enticing (vv. 10-15)
 - B. Sin will lead to death (vv. 15-19)

Heads-up: The second point is divided into 2 smaller parts: (1) Sin will be enticing, BUT... (2) Sin will lead to death. And so we'll actually be spending the majority of our time on that second point, and we'll just be going through our first point more quickly...

I. The wisdom of a father (vv. 8-9)

Proverbs 1:8-9 (ESV)

- ⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.

Here we see a loving father's plea to his dear beloved son...

Now, we're not given the names of the father and the son explicitly. But we know from the previous passage that this book contains the proverbs that have been authored and collected by King Solomon - so we can conclude that this "father" here refers to King Solomon himself. So this is Solomon speaking to his son.

And Solomon would be aware that his son is gonna be in a unique position because - unlike other boys - his son is gonna be the future king of Israel. And so I'm sure there's gonna be lots of things that a king - or any father - would have to teach his son.

Look at verse 8 - Do you see the word "teaching" that's used in verse 8? In the original Hebrew, that's the word "Torah." So it literally says, "forsake not your mother's Torah."

- So to the Jewish parents at the time, it'd be clear to them exactly what kind of teaching that Solomon is referring to here - it's the Law of God.
- Because the word "Torah" doesn't only mean "teaching," but it specifically refers to the first five books of the bible - the books of Law.

So parents, you have the unique responsibility to teach your children "Torah" - the Law of God, and what God Himself says is right and wrong.

- Not what you personally think is right & wrong, but what God says is right & wrong; what He says is good and evil. In other words, you're to teach them the fear of the Lord.

And kids & teenagers - listen to your parents. Your parents are teaching you God's Word because they love you. And they're actually just doing what God commands them to do. By God's wise design, He's created the family home to be the place where training in wisdom begins - Parents are to teach their children & children are to obey their parents. And that's a good thing!

Look at verse 9 - As Solomon is instructing his son to listen to his parents, he teaches his son that.. Ultimately, it's gonna be for his own benefit!

- Because his parents' wise instructions and teachings are gonna be like a graceful garland on top of his head & pendants around his neck!
 - If the benefits weren't clear before for Solomon's son, it should be much clearer to him now! Because this is quite a vivid image that Solomon is describing.
 - In those times, wearing a garland (or a wreath of flowers) & wearing pendants (or jewelry) was a sign of great honor, respect, and beauty. And it makes you more beautiful & attractive.
- Similarly, Solomon is saying that listening to your parents' wisdom will bring honor to your life & make you more beautiful and attractive as well.
 - As others see you growing in wisdom, and growing in godly character.
 - Others will be able to see your inner beauty as clearly as if you're adorned with a garland and pendants.

So, again, children - listen to your parents' wise instruction & teachings because ultimately, it'll be beneficial for you, as you grow in wisdom, character, and true beauty.

Now, if we look at the picture that's being described here, I know that it's not the kind of family or the kind of parents that all of us may have.

But if you are a part of this church, then you are a part of a family (a spiritual family), and I trust that God has given you someone who can speak wisdom into your life.

- As a church, we have elders, who - kinda like parents - also have your long-term wellbeing in mind. Who's giving you instruction & teaching from the Word of God.
- And as a church, we have brothers and sisters in Christ - those who may be more mature than us in our walk with Christ & who can speak wisdom into our lives.
- And ultimately, as a church, God is our Heavenly Father, and we are His children - and Solomon's divinely inspired words that we're reading here are ultimately the Word of God Himself.

And just like Solomon's son, it's ultimately gonna be very beneficial for us to listen to the wisdom of our Heavenly Father, and to obey His instruction & teachings.

So let's keep that in mind even as we go through the rest of our sermon for today - that ultimately, God has our good in mind, and it'll be beneficial to listen to His wisdom.

First, the wisdom of a father. And second...

II. The enticement of sinners (vv. 10-19)

A. Sin will be enticing (vv. 10-15)

After Solomon teaches his son what he should do (that'd be beneficial for him). He now switches gears here and teaches him the opposite thing - what he shouldn't do (that'd be harmful for him).

Solomon knows that listening to godly wisdom is not gonna be easy... Because guess what? At the same time that you're getting instruction and teaching from God's Word... At the same time, there's gonna be an opposite force that's gonna be actively working against you.

Proverbs 1:10-15 (ESV)

¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you,
do not consent.
¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;
let us ambush the innocent without reason;
¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
¹³ we shall find all precious goods,
we shall fill our houses with plunder;
¹⁴ throw in your lot among us;
we will all have one purse"—
¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them;
hold back your foot from their paths,

Solomon is warning his son - Be wary of sinners.

- Be aware that not everyone you meet in the world will fear the Lord, there will be those who do not fear the Lord (and therefore, they do not truly know what's right & wrong, and they're gonna lead you astray from what you've been taught).
- Now, it's important for us to understand that "Sinners" here (in verse 10) is not referring to sinners in general (because all of us have sinned).
- But specifically "sinners" here is referring to those who are actively still living in sin, and have not repented of their sins.

And notice what Solomon is doing here - He wisely acknowledges to his son that it's not gonna be easy to say "no" to these sinners. He acknowledges that it's actually gonna be enticing to follow them; it's gonna be alluring and attractive to sin. That's why it's not gonna be easy.

Look at verse 10 - Solomon gives a specific example of how his son may be drawn in. They'll say, "come with us..."

- "Come with US" - be a part of our group...
- It's gonna be enticing because they'll make you feel desired, valued, and wanted. Who doesn't want to feel that?

And then they may say, “let us ambush the innocent without reason; like Sheol let us swallow them alive and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder”

- It’s gonna be enticing because they’ll help you get what you’ve always wanted right away.
- They’ll basically say... Those “precious goods” - those things that you’ve always wanted to have in your life... a lot of money... beautiful clothes and jewelry... we can just take them!
- You don’t need to do any hard work or wait a long time to get what you want. Why do those things when you can have what you want right now! All you have to do is do what we do...
- This is the plan: we’ll wait till someone comes toward us, and we’ll just take what we want from them!
 - And nothing will stop us! Even if it means swallowing up someone’s life like sheol (like the grave), even if it means killing innocent blood... We’ll take what is rightfully ours.
 - And then guess what? The only consequence of our actions is this: our houses will be filled with plunder; will be filled with all of these precious goods that we’ve taken for ourselves!

Look at verse 14 - “throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse”

- Throw in your portion with us! We’ll be one team! So what are you waiting for?! Join us!

So what is Solomon suggesting that his son can be enticed by?

- It’s Instant gratification - that sin can help you get all that you want now (instant money, instant precious goods, instant excitement, instant acceptance and approval from others).
 - Do you see how that can be enticing?

But this makes me think: But why would a king’s son be tempted to do these things? Wouldn’t he have enough money, precious goods, and approval from others?

- But as I try to put myself in his shoes... what I’m imagining is... Actually, I don’t think it’ll ever be enough for him...
 - I imagine that Solomon’s son would spend most of his time with his father, the king. And with the king’s officials. And with the children of the city’s highest officials. Their standard of living is going to be much higher than those who’ve lived in the streets. I don’t think they’ll compare their lives with those people who are under them, but they’ll compare it to those people who’re above them - who’re richer and have nicer things than them. And perhaps they’ll covet and desire what those people have. And even when they get those things, there’s always going to be someone more successful and richer and more powerful... and they’ll desire more and more...
- And we’re similar! Because in our greed, I think it’ll never be enough!
 - So no matter which socioeconomic class we belong to (and no matter how much we currently have or don’t have)... I think there’s always this temptation to desire more... and guess what? We desire to get those things as instantly and as quickly as possible. And as easily as possible...

But as we’re hearing this, we may be thinking: I can see why it may be enticing to try and get those things instantly. I also have the tendency to want to get certain things as quickly as possible. But... I’ve never thought of joining a gang and killing someone to get those things. And no one has invited me to do anything close to murdering another person and stealing their stuff. I know some people can be that messed up and they need this teaching, but I don’t think this particular teaching is for me...

But what Solomon is actually doing here is that he's giving a specific example to describe a general principle - he's giving a specific example of a general principle.

Let's jump quickly to verse 19 - the general principle that he's describing here is "greed for unjust gain." "Unjust gain" can be described as getting something illegally. Another way of saying that is to get something unlawfully - as in getting something without obeying God's Law.

That's the temptation that we're facing here: that we tend to try and get what we want instantly - as soon as possible - even if it means disobeying God's Law.

And haven't we all - in our greed... because of our heart's deepest desires - haven't we all tried to get something that we've wanted... even if it meant disobeying God?

<pause>

Let's do a quick case study - let's put ourselves in someone else's shoes - someone who just joined a new school, or a new office - understandably, it may be uncomfortable to feel like you're on the outside looking in.

- But let's say one day, there's a group of people gossiping about another person in school or at work.
 - If you don't join in, then you'd stay on the outside looking in.
 - But if you join in gossiping, then it may be your opportunity to instantly be part of the group.
 - If something like that happens, then would you be tempted to join in?
- You may not be tempted to kill someone in order to be approved by others, but how about gossiping about someone else?
 - You may not be destroying another person physically, but you may be destroying another person's reputation, their dignity, and how other people view them.
- Even if we haven't been in that exact scenario, how many times have we fallen into sin because we want to fit in? And don't want to stand out?

<pause>

Let's do one more case study - some of us who are single may have the desire right now to be in a relationship and to get married one day.

By God's design, a husband and wife are to be one flesh; they're to have deep intimacy with one another. And sexual intimacy is one of the ways that a husband and wife are to know one another deeply.

I know that it may not be easy for some of us who are single - who are faithfully waiting for God to provide us with a godly partner. And we too desire that deep intimacy with someone. But in our desire for sexual pleasure, some of us may be tempted to take a shortcut and to get sexual pleasure as soon as possible, and as easily as possible (without having to obey what God's Word says, and without having to wait for His timing) - and so we may be tempted to take what we desire for ourselves... and we turn to shortcuts, like pornography. Or when that's no longer enough, we maybe tempted to engage in premarital sex (or sex before marriage).

- When we do that... we may not be killing another person, but we dishonor the humanity of those men and women who were made in the image of God, as we objectify them.
- And not only that, but we also dishonor God, as we disobey His instruction & teaching.

<pause>

I hope what we can see here is that even though Solomon's specific example may not be obviously relatable to us at first, I hope we can now see that the general principle that he's describing here is actually applicable to all of us.

Because that's basically what sin is - it's basically us trying to gain something for ourselves by disobeying God. And it's usually so we can get something for ourselves as soon as possible and as easily as possible (and even if it means hurting others).

That can be our tendency as sinners ourselves... So let's be wary of that...

To help us be aware of what we're tempted by, we can ask ourselves two questions:

1. What are you personally tempted/enticed to do recently?
2. What are you personally trying to gain by engaging in that sin?
 - a. Money? Approval? Pleasure?

Take some time tonight or this week to think about those things...

And let's be wary that sin will be enticing. But... we shouldn't be enticed. Because...

B. Sin will lead to death (vv. 15-19)

The father then gives his reasoning of why his son should not be enticed by sin. Because if you closely look at where that sin leads you... and where you'll end up... it's actually not very attractive or enticing at all.

Proverbs 1:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them;
 hold back your foot from their paths,
¹⁶ for their feet run to evil,
 and they make haste to shed blood.

The wise father instructs his son, "do not walk in the way with them!"

"Hold back *your foot* from their paths!" - It's your choice; it's your foot! Son, you need to make the conscious decision to not walk with them. You need to consciously exercise self-control. You need to intentionally not take a step toward following sinners.

Even when it's enticing, *why* should you exercise self-control? Because look at their path! Observe what they're doing right now. Where do you think their lives are headed? Their path is headed towards evil!

Consider the trajectory of your path, and carefully consider the consequences of your actions.

This is such wise counsel that Solomon is giving to his son.

So practically, for us - how can we consider the consequences of our actions? We can ask ourselves a third question:

1. What are you personally tempted to do recently?
2. What are you personally trying to gain by engaging in that sin?
3. **What would be the ultimate outcome of that sin?**

The outcome of your sin (or your disobedience) can be very damaging.

In **1 Kings 12** - we learned that Solomon's son - the one who became king after him, King Rehoboam, unfortunately chose not to listen to his father's wisdom. He was foolish. As he came into power, he chose not to listen to his parents' teachings, and he ignored the wise counsel of the older men who've given counsel to his father during his reign. Instead he listened to the foolish counsel of his young friends who he grew up with who told him to rule over the people with greater force. And what was the outcome of his foolishness? The people rebelled against him. 10 out of the 12 tribes of Israel rebelled and the kingdom became divided into two: the northern kingdom of Israel (consisting of the 10 tribes who rebelled), and the southern kingdom of Judah.

- And so after the rule of King David - known as the greatest king in the history of Israel...
- And after the rule of his son, King Solomon - known as the wisest king in the history of Israel...
- You have the rule of David's grandson & Solomon's son - Rehoboam (who in his foolishness) led to the division of the kingdom of Israel.

Friends, our choices and our sin have serious consequences.

<pause>

Proverbs 1:17-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ For in vain is a net spread
in the sight of any bird,

¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood;
they set an ambush for their own lives.

¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain;
it takes away the life of its possessors.

"For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird" - Even a bird, this wild animal, knows to evade a trap. That if you spread a net when the sun is out, and when the birds are right there seeing you spread the net, then the bird wisely knows not to fall into your trap.

But sinners are those who are even more foolish than birds! Because not only are they prone to falling into a trap, but they're the ones who are setting their own trap themselves! How foolish is that?! They're digging their own graves.

- And in their foolishness and blindness, they can't even see that they're doing that! They can only see what's directly in front of them, but not where it'll ultimately lead them to... their own blood.

So what would be the ultimate outcome of their sin? It takes away their life. They may not be able to see that that's where they're heading, but that's what's happening...

And here's the thing, our sins not only have *immediate* consequences in our lifetime, but they very much have *eternal* consequences as well...

The Hebrew word for "life" that's used in verse 19, also means "soul" - your soul... your very being. So the outcome of sin is not only that it can negatively affect your life now, but it will cost you your soul.

- So how "worth it" is it?
 - For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul?

<pause>

Our God is not pleased when we're ok with unjust gain. What does that tell us about our God? Our God cares about justice! Our God is perfectly just. And one day, He will have His justice. One day, EVERYONE will be judged for what they've done.

And for those who've pursued after their own desires; for those who've disobeyed the eternal, holy God (even hurting others for their own benefit)... they'll be given exactly what they deserve - eternal punishment in Hell. For the wages of sin is death.

And that's why, ultimately, unrepentant sinners are on a path headed towards their own destruction.

- Those thinking they'll get precious goods instantly apart from God... will one day lose all that they have...
- Those thinking they'll get pleasure instantly apart from God... will one day lose all their pleasure, as they experience unending suffering in Hell.
- Those thinking they'll receive others' approval instantly apart from God... will ultimately be rejected, not by man, but by God.

This is the bad news that we all should be wary of...

<pause>

Yet all hope is not gone for sinners... for there is Good News...

This Good News is for sinners (even for those sinners who've unjustly murdered someone (it's not too late); even for those sinners who've unjustly taken something for their own benefit... even when it hurts another person - it's not too late). This Good News is available to all who'd receive it with their hearts...

The Good News is that in His grace and mercy - because He loves us - God - our Heavenly Father - did not abandon us (His sons and daughters) even though we've disobeyed Him countless times.

- God loves His children dearly. And so God the Father sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ from Heaven to Earth to save His people from the grip of sin and death (by dying on the cross for our sins).

Our Lord Jesus is fully God AND fully human. And as one who is fully human, he lived on Earth, and he was also tempted by sin.

After fasting for 40 days in the wilderness...

Matthew 4:8-9 (ESV)

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

- Our Lord Jesus was tempted like us to have instant gratification.
 - Satan is basically saying, "Jesus, you can either go through pain, suffering, and a humiliating death for your people..."
 - Or... join me... worship me... and all the kingdoms of the world that you see before you (in front of your face) will be yours right now... Glory will be yours right now...
 - No pain, no suffering. Only glory..."
- You can see how that would be enticing...

Matthew 4:10 (ESV)

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

- What did our Lord Jesus do? He was tempted by the devil just as we - as humans - are tempted to sin, yet he held back his foot from being enticed by the devil. He turned to the Word of God, and obeyed what God's Word says, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."
- Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not.
- For our sake, Jesus endured temptation, pain, suffering, and a humiliating death on the cross. So that he can be our substitute, so that he can take our place and take on the punishment that we deserved.

And for those of us who repent of our sins and put our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior - Our sins have been forgiven. And Jesus' righteousness is counted as our own. We will not be punished in Hell, but we will gain eternal life in Heaven. That's the Good News! That's the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And guess what? Because of the Gospel... what we truly need will one day be fulfilled in Heaven - where we'll have true riches, true pleasure, and true approval...

- True riches! Eternal life and heavenly treasures that will never be destroyed, and never be taken away.
- True pleasure and intimacy in knowing our God (not a distant relationship, but a deep personal relationship with Him). Where one day... we'll be face-to-face with Christ, our greatest treasure.
 - And where we'll be with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Heaven!
- True approval - not the approval of others that can come and go, but the approval of the God of the universe (that's so much more valuable) and that's available through Jesus Christ.

So if you have not yet put your faith in Christ, then I remind you again to not be enticed by the temptation and false promises of sin. But I invite you to put your faith in the Gospel. I know it may not be easy, and the Gospel may not seem obviously attractive at first, but the more you come to understand it, the more you'll see its truth and beautiful promises. And more importantly, the more you'll see the beauty of Christ.

So if you're unsure or still have questions, I encourage you to talk to someone after our service.

And for those of us who've already placed our faith in Christ - we're no longer identified as sinners, but as beloved children of God. And thus, we're to no longer live in sin, but to live our lives in godliness - and we can do that by listening to God's instruction & teachings. As we're called to live lives that reflect the life of our Lord Jesus.

And the life of Jesus is the opposite of the life of sinners.

- Sinners sacrifice others for their own gain.
- But Jesus sacrificed himself for our gain.

So church - As God's people, our influence is to be the opposite of the group of sinners (who'd lead others to sin) - Instead, we're to be the light of the world and salt of the Earth (living selflessly and sacrificially leading others - not to sin, but to Jesus) - that's the kind of life that pleases and honors God. That's the kind of life that is beautiful to God...

How can we wisely live lives that honor our God?

As we conclude - Here's a couple of next steps to help us in our battle against temptation and the enticement of sin:

- 1. Be ready - Anticipate that you will be tempted to sin, and that it will be enticing.**
 - Be proactive and think about the ways that you're usually tempted and how you may be tempted in the future. Ask yourself those 3 questions:
 - i. What are you personally tempted/enticed to do recently?
 - ii. What are you personally trying to gain by engaging in that sin?
 - (money? Power? Pleasure? Approval?)
 - iii. What would be the ultimate outcome of that sin?

- Parents, anticipate the temptation that your children may be faced with.
 - i. And share with them your understanding - that you understand that it will be enticing. Don't only share with them the "do's" and the "don'ts" but explain how it could be enticing for them, and then share with them the ultimate outcome of their choices, so that they may see for themselves.
 - ii. And more importantly, point them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. Seek godly wisdom

A. From God's Word

- Continue to seek godly wisdom from the source of all wisdom, God Himself - seek His wisdom directly in His Word and through prayer.
 - Read through the book of Proverbs by yourself or with someone else. That'd be great!

B. From God's people

- And actively seek wise counsel from your parents, pastors, and other brothers and sisters in Christ - those who can speak truth and wisdom into your lives.
 - Not only those who can agree with you, but also those who can challenge you when needed.
 - More importantly, those who can remind you of the Gospel and continue to preach the Gospel into your life.

3. Ask for accountability

- You don't have to fight temptation on your own.
- Expect it to be a lifetime war, not a single battle. Invite someone to speak wisdom into your life and keep you accountable regarding ongoing sins that you're battling through.
 - Look for someone of the same gender who is farther along than you or have overcome the sin issue that you're currently struggling with. Their wisdom is gonna be so helpful.

<pause>

Brothers and sisters, listening to God or to others' wise instructions & teachings may not look very attractive at first. Even those words: "instruction" and "teaching" may make us groan and they sound boring and complicated. And the process of learning and being corrected may be difficult. But... it will lead to great benefits; it will lead to life.

But on the other hand, listening to sinners may be very enticing & attractive from the get-go. And the process may seem much easier and way more fun & exciting. But... it will lead to death.

And so as we live our lives, we'll be given the opportunity to either: listen & obey the wisdom of our Heavenly Father, or to disobey His wise counsel.

It's not easy to say "no" to sin. But let's be a church that's aware of the enticement of sin. Let's be a church where we won't just succumb to sin without a fight! Let's be a church that continues to desire to please God with our lives. So let's continue to spur each other on, and to help each other to obey our Heavenly Father's wise instruction & teaching...

The One Thing

***Listen to wise instruction & teaching,
not to sin's temptation though it'll be enticing.***

Let's pray.