MCD Just Checking In #35 April 25 The People of Proverbs ***Pilgrim's Process***
Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord… for I am a "pilgrim" with You…"

For many, many years I have begun my AM devotional time by reading a chapter in the book of Proverbs. This gets me through the book 11 times a year. (During December I read 5 Psalms a day.) Years ago someone pointed out to me the four ñ*people of proverbs*ò é the simple, fool, scorner, and wise man. Let me share some of my observations to this pointé

Simple: *inexperienced in life*, naïve, gullible, ignorant.
We all start out "simple" or ñinexperiencedò in life. There is no shame in being young and naïve. But being simple is dangerousé because ñ*what you don't know can hurt you*ò And people donôt stay simpleé life takes care of that. *But what we become depends on the voices we listen to. Voices determine choices, choices determine direction, and direction determines destination.*

Fool: *unwilling to be corrected*, avoids truth, seeks selfish agendas, undisciplined, impulsive, lazy, greedy.
If the simple person doesnôt come to fear God and listen to truth, he will become a fool. It is not just a possibility, but a reality. We are bent towards selfishness and folly because of our fallen nature. Left to himself, the simple becomes a fool. The essence of foolishness is this: the fool makes wrong choices and experiences the painful results, yet pursues the same course yet again. (He runs full speed into a wall, falls down and hurts himself. So, he says to himselfé ñhmmmé I guess Iôll just have to run faster next time!ò FOOL!

Scorner: *incapable of correction*, hates truth, believes he alone possesses insight, mocks God, despises the wise.
The scorner is a full grown fool. His is the ñreprobate mindò that has been abandoned by God. (Romans 1:28.) His conscience is incapable of guilt and his destruction is irreparable.

Wise: *corrected by truth, fears God, teachable, discerning, righteous, disciplined, generous, patient, and faithful.*
The simple becomes wise if he has been exposed to and captured by truth. By patient instruction, life modeling, consistent correction, Spirit given repentance, and gradual growth, the simple becomes wise. Wisdom is the ability to apply eternal insights to immediate circumstances for long term good. Check out the Proverbial (chapter 1) words that follow:

Learning: the process of acquiring and grasping *knowledge*
Knowledge: accumulation of in-depth information on a subject

Instruction: process of *moral training* by word and rod (includes correction & reproof)
Understanding: ability to distinguish between *good and evil* (*moral* discernment)

Guidance: counsel to steer oneôs life on the right *course*
Discretion: ability to plot a determined *course* of action with foresight

Prudence: ability to *interpret life* and people and therefore make good judgments
Wisdom: the skill of *living a godly life* as God intended man to live

Learning is to knowledge as *Instruction is to Understanding* as *Guidance is to Discretion* as *Prudence is to Wisdom*
Information Morality Course Life

Self Check Questions:
Am I teachable? How do I respond to correction or rebuke? (Resentment, defensiveness or appreciation)
Am I diligent in pursuing truth and growth, or am I lazy and self satisfied with my present level of assumed wisdom?
Am I more interested in knowledge than wisdom? How has truth changed me in the last 6 months?
Who are three wise people I really need to spend time with to help me learn and grow in wisdom?
Who are three teachable people I should invest time in to help them grow in wisdom?

For Further Study: Proverbs chapters 1, 2, 9, 17-26; James; Matthew chapters 5-7.

ñLord, give me a hunger for truth, a passionate pursuit of transformation in Your image, patience in the process, a willingness to be corrected. Deliver me from impatience, impulsiveness, jumping to conclusions, and assuming I know best. Lord, grow me into your image in holiness, patience, longsuffering, perseverance, faith, love, forgiveness, truth and wisdom. Deliver me from my foolishness. Make me truly wise. For I pray in the name of Him who is Wisdom Incarnate, Amenò

Remember, you are very special to us and are praying for you continually.
Living with leaving in view…. Jn 9:4 ***Ron & Val***

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.