

How can I hear in all this noise?

Proverbs 1:20-33

Rev J Shannon

There's wisdom running through the streets like a mad woman.

I can't think of a better time than now to better time to have Wisdom –crying out for commonsense?

She is sad and angry about human kind's narrow-mindedness and willfulness. She can't understand why the simple love of God does not lead to justice. This is a tantrum against those who hate knowledge and suspect professionals. In Wisdom's world – it is the prophets who understand God's will. In our day – it is probably the scientists, doctors and nurses.

Behind the scripture is the sure belief that God placed men and women with special ability at the disposal of Israel and our society.

Wisdom – in Chinese has 3 characters: Knowledge, intuition and experience – and they combine to guide us through thought and deed.

Wisdom says to take the big God questions as settled and just get on to listening to the experts. She claims if you do that, it will bring you peace.

We would!! But there are so many voices that denigrate experts – that they've declared themselves experts for not being experts – if that makes sense. I just got a text from Craig Kelly offering me COVID advice.

Come on! Really? I blocked his number.

There is irony in Wisdom calling out to deaf ears.

Basically, the text says that waywardness and complacency will be your undoing ...and insult to injury, she will laugh at your misfortunes and mock your misfortunes.

Geoff and I listened to interviews with several nurses this week. It was sad to hear how they have become targets and how they feel little thought is given to their safety and wellness. But the saddest of all was the nurse talking about the number of nurses quitting – not because of the threats and accusations (they get bailed up by family and friends – who want to tell them how misinformed they are) – no, it is because of compassion fatigue. The nurses are usure that they can treat people equally and with the kindness and attention everyone

deserves. . They are afraid that, in the words of wisdom, they will laugh when disaster strikes you....

The hospitals are filling with people who have chosen not to be vaccinated, not for medical reasons but for beliefs.

Compassion is a precious commodity when you have been working 12-15 hour shifts for months.

The scripture is written in the form of a lament. We have plenty to lament about.

The lament – as all laments, ends on a more positive note. That those who are alert and listening, that those who love God and trust will find ease and will not live in fear.

And so we pray – Thank you God for giving us knowledge and intuition. We know we are old enough to have experience. May we combine these with Wisdom's message to love God and trust his voice in the prophets, to live safely and with kindness. That is enough for me. Amen