

Reflection: Where is your Wisdom?

Readings [Proverbs 8:1, 22-31](#) [John 1:1-14](#)

One of the many catch-phrases from the comedy “Dad’s Army” is that of Sergeant Wilson, played by John le Mesurier, who would raise an eyebrow, pause, look at Captain Mainwaring and ask, “Is that *wise*, sir?”

Captain Mainwaring’s pompous behaviour was often far from wise, but part of the comedy was that Sergeant Wilson was also himself often foolish and mistaken.

True wisdom is not something to be understood by our human standards of what appears sensible, or right, or proper. In fact, our understanding of wisdom – what it is and where it comes from – needs an overhaul. We need to explore the worlds of creativity and poetry to help us do this, which are found in the beautiful wisdom literature of Proverbs and the beginning of John’s gospel.

Wisdom is part of God’s nature, present with and in him from before anything even came to be. Wisdom is found in God’s word, the creative spark which delights in each aspect of creation as it is brought into being, and is in union with God. The picture of Wisdom at one with God and the created world reminds us that God created the world to be a place of joy, to be at one with him, where humans are made and known in God’s own image.

“I was filled with delight day after day,
rejoicing always in his presence,
³¹ rejoicing in his whole world
and delighting in the human race.”

God’s Word is also the way that John describes Jesus. God’s “bright spark”, his wisdom, purpose and plan, became flesh and lived a human life among us. He “made his dwelling among us” choosing to settle with us: real, historical, human, utterly earthly, yet also real, beyond history, utterly divine. It is not that Jesus was “like” flesh, but “*was*” flesh. It is a mark of how much God loves his creation, and how he longs to bring it back to the kind of relationship of delight and communion with him which he intended.

No-one says to God, “Is this *wise*, sir?” It is certainly beyond our understanding, and an act which many choose to ignore or reject out of hand, or even oppose.

What are people *worth*? We might weigh up people’s worth by their wealth, their contribution to the economy or society at large, their fame, looks or whether we like them or not. What is the world worth? What about all those parts which we have still yet to properly map out? What value is there on tiny island archipelagos and people which are at risk of being rinsed off the planet as our sea levels rise?

God has placed his imprint on each of us. He sent his Son to live with us because he loves each of us, and tells each of us in the open arms of Jesus on the cross: “You are worth it.”



In this Greek icon, Lady Wisdom is presented with her three daughters, Faith, Hope, and Love.

That is the extent of the extravagant, joyous, delighted love of the Father for his creation. That is wisdom.

Where is our wisdom? How do we reflect the worth which God has placed upon his creation? Do I respect others because God has made them in his image every bit as much as he has made me? How might living that out affect the way in which we live and work together, both as a local community and across our world?

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image;
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen.

