

Lies We Believe: You have to learn the hard way?

Various Texts

The Claim: "You have to learn the hard way."

- Underlying premise: Wisdom is only learned through personal experience
 - Often through mistakes

Scripture's Truth

- What is wisdom?
 - The insight to apply truth to a situation
 - Not the same as knowledge
- Wisdom is of great value (Pro. 16:16)
- Wisdom is found from 3 sources

Personal Experience as a Teacher

- The pros:
 - It can teach us valuable lessons
 - Ex.) Ecclesiastes
 - God uses it as to redeem our mistakes
 - Ex.) Judah (Gen. 37:26; 39, 43-44)
- The con: We can come to the wrong conclusions
 - Ex.) Job's friends

Others' Experience as a Teacher

- We can learn from the experiences, and even mistakes, of others (Pro 13:20; Job 12:12)
- Pros:
 - We can glean from others' experiences
 - We don't have repeat their mistakes
- Con: We can come to the same wrong conclusions that they have come to

The Source of Wisdom

- Jesus Himself is the source of true wisdom (1 Cor. 1:22-25, 30)
- To know God is to know wisdom (Pro 9:10; Eph 1:17)
- He gives us wisdom when we seek Him (Jas 1:5)
- Every other claim of truth or wisdom must be brought before Him (1 John 4:1)
 - Thus, we should root ourselves in His truth
 - Grounded in Scripture
 - Centered in Jesus

So What?

- Are we seeking God for wisdom to understand what we see in the world?
 - We gain wisdom through godly men and women who have come before us
 - God will use our experiences, both good and bad to teach us wisdom
 - But it all must center in JESUS!

Meditation Verse: *Colossians 2:2-3*