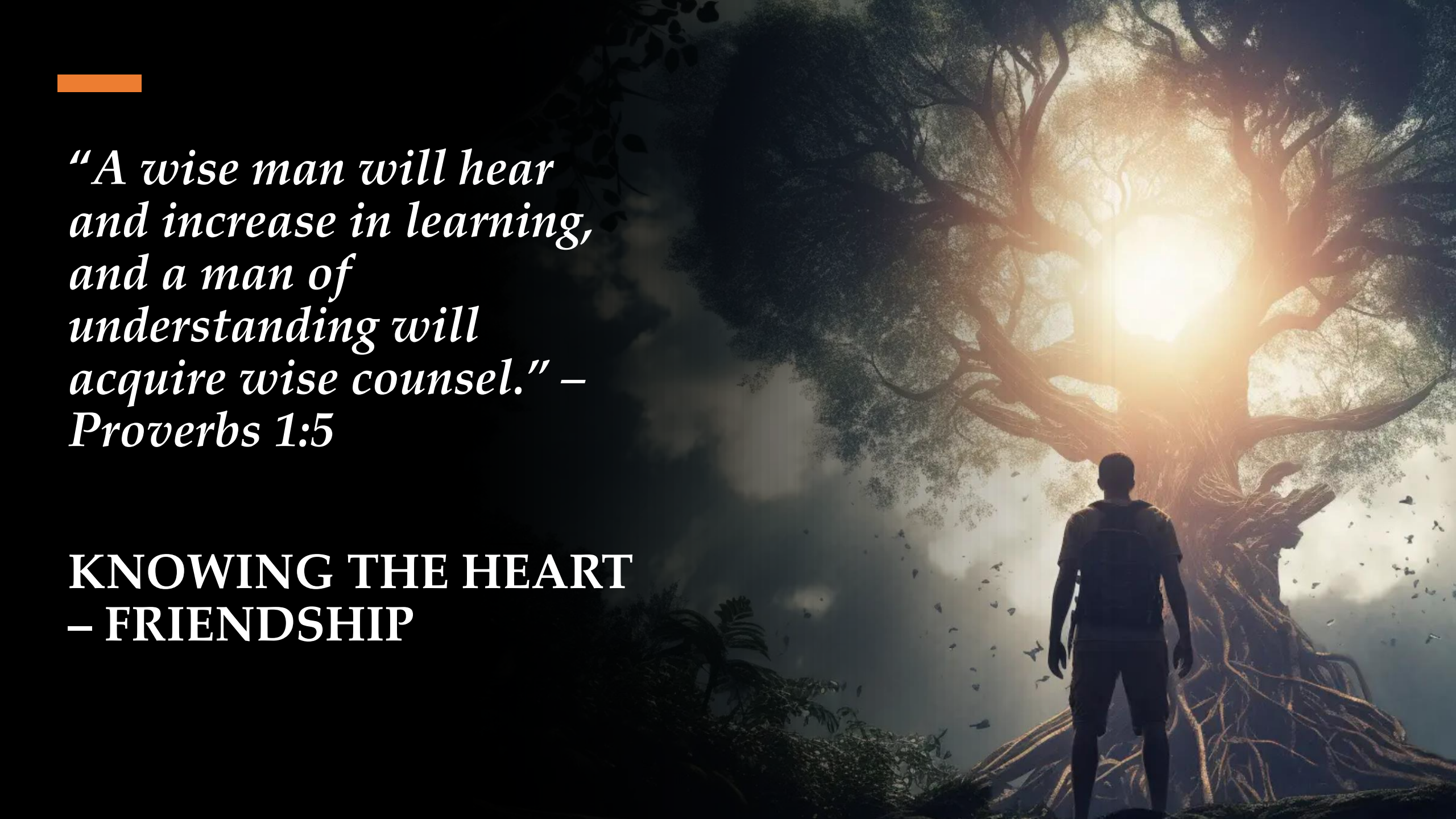


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from behind the tree's trunk, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen floating in the air around the tree. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

# WISDOM

for the journey



A person stands in silhouette on a rocky outcrop, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a dark, cloudy sky with many small birds in flight. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

*“A wise man will hear  
and increase in learning,  
and a man of  
understanding will  
acquire wise counsel.” –  
Proverbs 1:5*

**THE JUST: THOSE WHO  
CARE FOR OTHERS!**



A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight streams through the dense canopy of leaves, creating a warm, golden glow. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with other foliage visible in the lower left corner. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

# WISDOM

for the journey

We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

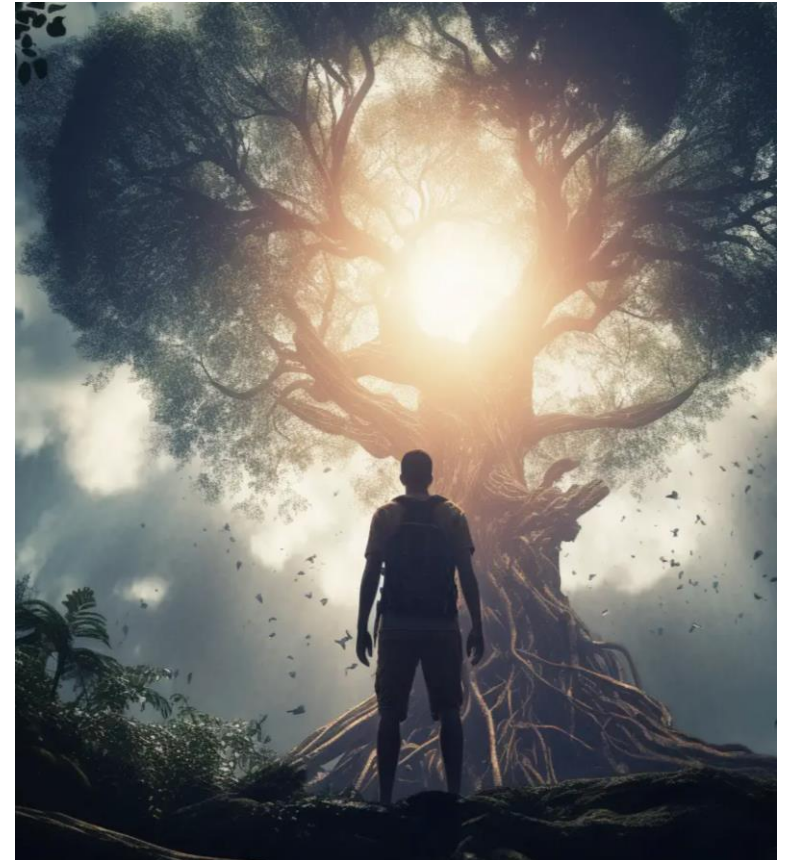
Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

In this study, we will look and listen to hear God's voice and see his Son shining through the book of Proverbs. We will be equipped in every way for our journey!

# KNOWING THE SPHERES – THE JUST – THOSE WHO DO GOOD!

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1. **THE STANDARD** - Proverbs 11:10 → The Hebrew means those who are “just.” It means those who believe in God and who therefore disadvantage themselves to advantage those around them. Here we are told that this group of people, the righteous, prosper. That is, they grow in numbers, they thrive economically, they rise to the top of their respective fields. The city rejoices!
2. **BLESSING OTHERS** – Proverbs 11:11 → If believers were simply living life as they should, it would create such public good that those around them would rejoice in their prosperity and success. Believers make a difference—in relationships, business, civic life, neighborhoods, community, peacemakers, and families.

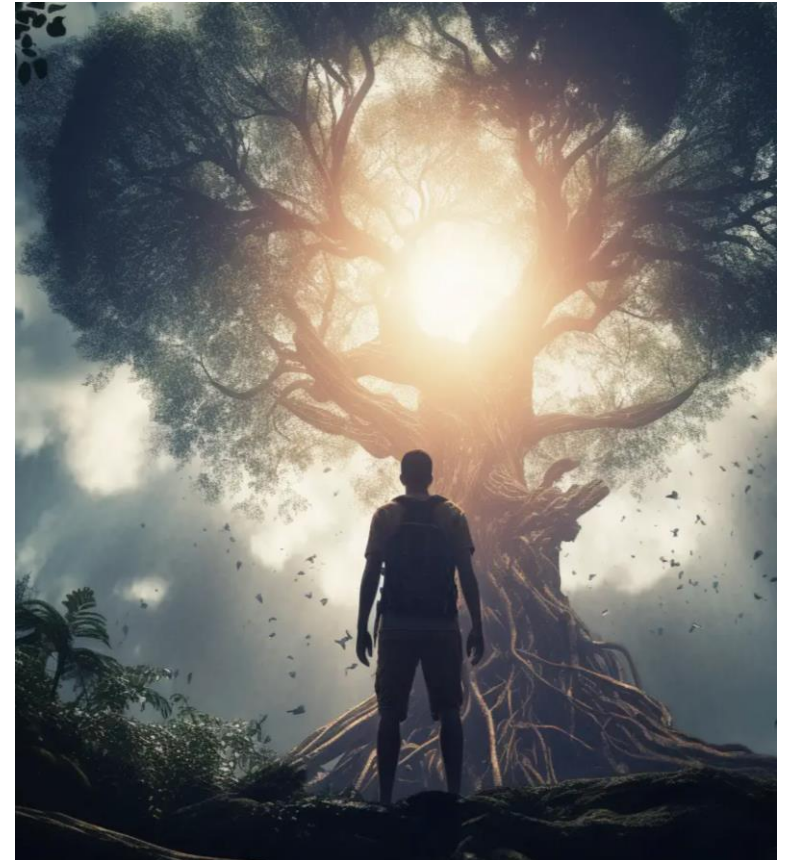




# KNOWING THE SPHERES – THE JUST – DOING JUSTICE!

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1. **MAKE IT RIGHT** – Proverbs 21:7 → The Hebrew means “rectifying justice” – putting things right for those being exploited. God constantly calls us to “do justice” to widows, orphans, immigrants, and the poor (Zechariah 7:9-10, Psalm 82:1-4). That entails defending them before the law (Deut. 10:18-19) and sharing our goods with them so they have enough (Isaiah 58:6-7). To neglect this group is called “sowing injustice.”
2. **CONCERN FOR THE POOR** – Proverbs 22:7, 8 → The Hebrew means “primary justice” – giving people fair, equal treatment regardless of their racial, social, or economic status. We are to see care for the poor as not merely optional, something I can do if I am having a good year. It is unjust not to share what I have with those who have less.



# KNOWING THE SPHERES – THE JUST – A TIME OF TROUBLE

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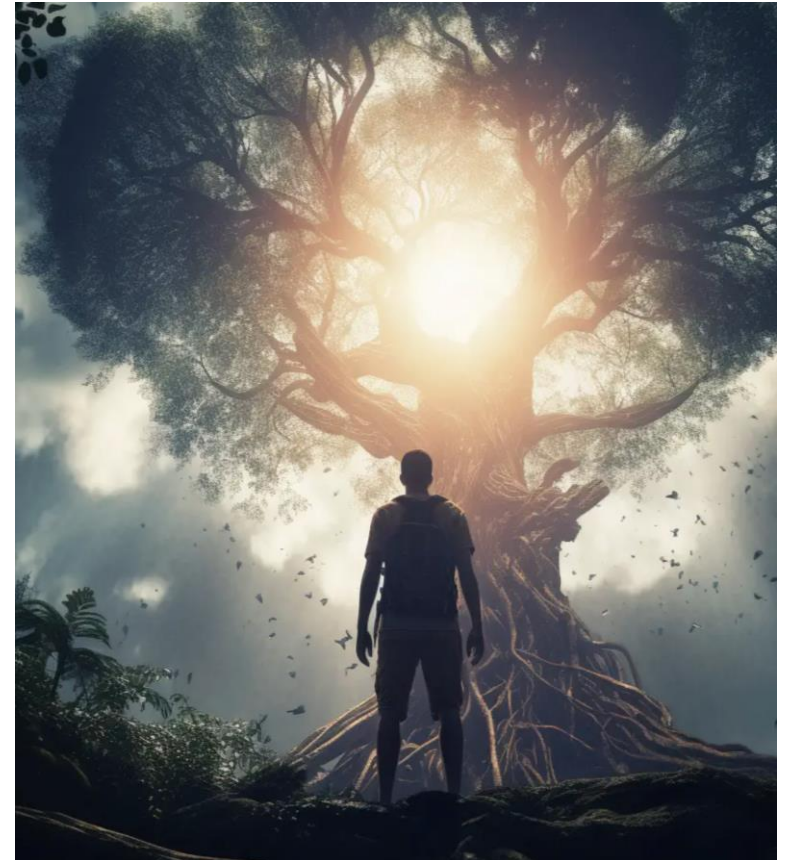
1. THE COST – Proverbs 24:10-12 → It always costs time and money to do justice. And yet there are times when doing justice really costs. “A time of trouble” literally means “the day of adversity.” In times of crisis, from recessions to government coups, the most vulnerable are most endangered, and to defend them puts you in the way of harm as well.
2. SACRIFICE → Times of trouble can reveal the deep selfishness in our hearts that we otherwise keep hidden. “The true test of a person’s strength or mettle is adversity; almost everyone can survive the good times.”



# KNOWING THE SPHERES – THE JUST - POVERTY

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1. **OPPRESSION** – Proverbs 13:23, 18:23 → Poverty can be caused by unjust social conditions. When we flatter ourselves that our assets are the result of our work, it leads us to believe any lack of such assets must be the result of laziness.
2. **CHARACTER** – Proverbs 15:15-17, 16:8, 19, 19:1, 22 → Poverty can be caused by foolishness. However, poverty is not always shameful. There are many strong, even blameless moral character who find themselves in poverty.
3. **MISFORTUNE** – Proverbs 17:5 → Poverty is sometimes the result of disaster!
4. **RESPONSIBILITY** – Proverbs 10:4, 21:17, 23:19-21 → Poverty promotes hard work and frugality and rightly observes that, in general, these qualities usually lead to some degree of prosperity. Poverty can come from a lack of self-discipline, the inability to endure delayed gratification, and addiction. Our responsibility is to show the poor compassion, never contempt.







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## ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. How are you the kind of person that seeks to make your church, community and family a better place?
2. What is your best story of how Christians responded to need?
3. Where do you see a need in your community for “someone” to do something?