

August 19, 2018

Wisdom is a woman (#throwback)

Proverbs 9:1-6

1/2

## PODCAST START:

Brian: Hey there! The Queer Theology podcast is on summer vacation for the first time ever. But fear not, there is an episode of the podcast coming your way in just a minute. We have given a queer take on over two hundred Bible passages. There's a good chance you haven't heard every single one of those, which is why every week for the summer we're publishing a throwback episode of the podcast. We'll be back with new episodes in September, and until then, you can stay connected with us on social media, inside of Sanctuary Collective (which you can learn more about at [QueerTheology.com/community](http://QueerTheology.com/community)), and of course, with throwback episodes of this podcast. So without further ado, here's today's episode, and we'll see you in September!

[intro music]

Fr. Shay: Welcome to the Reading Queerly queer theology podcast, where each week, your hosts Brian Murphy and Shay Kearns will offer a reflection on the week's lectionary readings.

B: This week we'll be looking at the text for Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> [2015]. We're going to look at Proverbs 9:1-6. It's short again, so I'm going to read it to you. This is from the Common English Bible.

Wisdom built her house; she has carved out her seven pillars. She slaughtered her animals, mixed her wine, and set her table. She sends out her female servants; she issues an invitation from the top of the city heights: "Whoever is naive turn aside here," she says to those who lack sense. "Come, eat my food, and drink the wine I have mixed. Abandon your simplistic ways and live; walk in the way of understanding." [CEB]

Shay, what's going on for you when you hear this?

FS: I love how wisdom is often personified as a woman, especially all throughout the Proverbs. You know, from a tradition that often, maybe even the majority the time is pretty awful towards women and towards respecting women's voices, I think it's really important to pay attention that we have this picture of wisdom personified as a woman. I think that's really cool. I also just really like this passage. I think it's – I don't know what about it exactly resonates with me, but I

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really like it. I especially like the last verse, “Abandon your simplistic ways and live; walk in the way of understanding.” I think that’s a good call for all of us to continually be trying to learn more about the world, to not give in to the really simple answers that are often provided for us, and instead try to have a better sense of understanding.

B: There’s something here for me too about the wisdom. A lot of the Proverbs deal with wisdom, and not necessarily God in the traditional sense. I really appreciate that. We send out daily affirmations every weekday to folks who want it. It’s a range of scripture and Christian theologians and song lyrics and contemporary thinkers, a real mix of things. Every now and then, few and far between but every now and then, we get someone who’s like, “Oh, I thought this would be more Christian.” This reminds me the Bible is filled with writings that are not necessarily specifically about the God of Abraham up in heaven, or Jesus Christ, ‘his only begotten son.’ Even within the Bible, there’s sort of a wealth of writing that we consider sacred and inspired. This reminds me of that.

And I, again, like that wisdom is often personified as a woman, as female. I think there’s something there. I heard someone once say that, in many ways, wisdom in the Proverbs is sort of the Jewish Bible version – not to make everything about Christianity but like [laughs] the Jewish Bible version – of the Holy Spirit. That wisdom in the Proverbs can be thought about in this sort of God-like way. So to remember that, that the feminine is important as well, and then that is reflected in the Bible. Not always, but sometimes, like we see here. I think it’s important to note when we see it.

[outro music]

B: This has been Reading Queerly, the queer lectionary podcast. I’m Brian—

FS: And I’m Shay. And you can find out more at [QueerTheology.com](http://QueerTheology.com).

B: If you’d like to connect with us, send us an email to [connect@queertheology.com](mailto:connect@queertheology.com).

FS: Thanks for listening.

**PODCAST END**

Transcript by Taylor Walker

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