

Morning Service, 5 December 2010, Julian Hardyman

Masterchef final: wisdom vs. folly

Proverbs 9

I. Whose meal will you eat? (1-6, 13-18)

1. *Wisdom's Life-giving Luncheon (1-6)*

- A fine house and a diligent hostess (1-2)
- Multiple invitations and needy people (3-4)
- Fine dining and eternal living (5-6)

2. *Folly's Fatal Feast (13-18)*

- An impressive but hollow hostess (15-16)
- Pressing invitations and a titillating menu (17)
- Dead dining companions and deadly after-effects (18)

II. How will you respond to God's invitation to change? (7-12)

1. *Foolishly – mocking resistance to Christ and his messengers*

2. *Wisely – constant openness to a growing relationship with Christ as Master*

The images on the following page are from the slides used by Julian Hardyman during the sermon to illustrate the "sandwich" nature of the text:

Proverbs 9 - outline

Lady Wisdom's Invitation to a Life-Giving Feast (1-6)

The wise person and the scoffer (7-9)

Fearing and Knowing God (10-11)

The wise person and the scoffer (12)

Lady Folly's Invitation to a Fatal Feast (13-18)

Proverbs 9: 7-12

The wise person and the scoffer – how they respond to those who invite them to change (7-9)

Fearing and Knowing God (10-11)

The wise person and the scoffer – how their choices about change affect their destiny (12)