

26-0201a - Detailed Summary

26-0201a - *When Human Wisdom Meets Divine Will*, Tom Freed

Bible Readers: John Nousek and Roger Raines

This detailed summary by Grok, xAI, (Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

See the transcript: [Transcript HTML](#) - [Transcript PDF](#)

When Human Wisdom Meets Divine Will

Scripture Readings

1st Reading (0:04 - 0:36): John Nousek Proverbs 21:30-31: The service opens with a warm good morning greeting. John reads Proverbs 21:30-31: "There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the Lord. The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory	Continued: belongs to the Lord." He affirms it with "Amen." 2nd Reading (0:41 - 0:59): Roger Raines Job 42:2: Roger reads from Job 42:2: "I know that you can do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." Roger concludes the Scripture reading portion.
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Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 27:34), Preacher: Tom Freed

(1:04 - 1:31) Opening Greetings and Scripture Readings

The preacher, Tom, greets the congregation, noting it is his turn to preach in their rotation. He introduces the sermon title: "When Human Wisdom Meets Divine Will."

He paints a vivid imaginary scene of history's most brilliant minds—philosophers, strategists, scientists, and politicians—gathered in a war room to plot against God's purposes.

(1:32 - 3:55) The Futility of Human Brilliance Against God

Tom lists historical figures who might be in such a gathering, including Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Plato, Einstein, and Thomas Jefferson, along with others who could be imagined.

Despite their blueprints, simulations, arguments, armies, and advanced technology, Proverbs 21:30 stands immovable: no wisdom, understanding, or counsel can succeed against the Lord.

He explains that Proverbs 21 contrasts righteous versus wicked, diligence versus laziness, and pride versus humility. Verses 30-31 serve as a powerful capstone, showing human preparation ultimately yielding to divine victory.

Verse 30 declares opposition impossible, while verse 31 notes that even the best preparations (like readying a horse for battle) result in victory belonging only to the Lord.

The verse does not discourage wisdom itself—Proverbs praises wisdom—but warns against wisdom that defies God or contradicts His Word.

Tom shares personal experience: he has often relied on his own plans, thinking God's way was wrong or too slow, only to see them fail repeatedly.

This truth invites surrender to God's perfect, unthwartable plans, echoing Isaiah 55 where God's ways and thoughts are far higher than human ones.

(3:58 - 5:56) The Three Pillars of Human Opposition

The sermon delves into Proverbs 21:30's three-fold human arsenal that fails against God.

The first pillar is wisdom (Hebrew: *chokmah*), meaning practical skill, shrewdness, and the ability to devise successful plans—exemplified by cunning politicians or businessmen like Donald Trump or Bill Gates.

The second is understanding (Hebrew: *tuvuna*), referring to insight, discernment, and seeing through complexities to predict outcomes. This includes intellectuals who analyze trends and dismiss God as nonexistent or His ways as outdated, claiming the Bible is too ancient for modern belief.

The third is counsel (Hebrew: *etzah*), meaning advice, strategy, and deliberate planning, often collective as in war councils or rebellious boardrooms.

Together, these three encompass the full spectrum of human intellect: practical skill, perceptive insight, and strategic plotting.

The verse does not deny their value in general life but declares them ineffective against the Lord.

(5:57 - 9:59) God's Sovereignty Over Human Schemes

Human wisdom, understanding, and counsel are beneficial when aligned with God but always fail when opposing Him.

God's sovereignty crushes every opposition, as Job confessed in Job 42:2 after his trials: God can do all things, and no purpose of His can be thwarted. Job, though faithful and intelligent, questioned God but ultimately admitted his limited perspective.

The modern age obsesses over these three pillars through self-help gurus promising success via strategies, skeptics mocking faith with analysis, and cultures redefining truth via expert panels—seen widely on YouTube, Instagram, and the internet.

Such worldly guidance consistently fails; Christians should seek guidance aligned with God instead.

Proverbs 21:30 humbles every idol of the mind—no scheme outsmarts God.

Biblical examples include Pharaoh's oppression overturned by plagues, the Tower of Babel's ingenuity scattered, and Assyria used then judged by God (Isaiah 10:15 compares the axe boasting over the wielder).

God raises and judges nations and leaders; they are tools in His hand. Nations opposing His Word face destruction and should not boast.

Psalms 108:12 (from David) affirms human help is useless, especially in opposition to God.

(9:59 - 12:02) Old Testament Examples of Divine Overturn

Opposition repeatedly meets divine overturn in the Old Testament.

In 1 Samuel 13, King Saul impatiently offered an unlawful sacrifice to retain his army, bypassing God's timing through Samuel—his self-reliance cost him the throne, and God raised David instead.

Balaam attempted to curse Israel for profit (Numbers 22-24), but God turned every oracle into a blessing—even pagan insight submitted to Yahweh.

Jonah fled God's call to preach to Nineveh, believing he knew better. God used a storm and great fish to redirect him toward mercy. Jonah resisted helping Israel's enemy, but God compassionately gave Nineveh a chance to repent, which they did.

Tom relates personally: like Jonah, people resist God's direction, but God redirects them cleverly, as He has done in his own life.

(12:04 - 15:00) New Testament Triumph in Christ

New Testament examples shine brighter through Christ, the ultimate victory of God's will over human plots.

The Pharisees and religious leaders, experts in the law, repeatedly tried to trap Jesus with questions about taxes, adultery, and false witnesses. Jesus always gave perfect answers, exposing their hypocrisy and silencing them.

Their ultimate scheme—the crucifixion—backfired: what they intended for evil became the means of salvation.

This echoes Joseph's words in Genesis 50:20: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."

Acts 4:27-28 shows Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, and Israel fulfilled God's predestined purpose in the crucifixion.

Jesus willingly laid down His life—no one took it from Him. He could have summoned twelve legions of angels.

The cross fulfilled Genesis 3:15—the serpent's head was crushed, though painful for Jesus, involving physical suffering and separation from God.

(15:00 - 17:12) Victory Through the Cross and Beyond

The cross's pain pales compared to the spiritual victory: Jesus rose on the third day, crushing Satan decisively.

Through His death comes salvation: "He was wounded for our transgressions... by his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). What opponents saw as victory became God's and believers' ultimate triumph, providing healing and salvation.

This power extended to Saul of Tarsus, who schemed to destroy the church but was transformed on the Damascus Road into the apostle Paul.

Even Revelation's final rebellion by the beast, false prophet, and united forces ends in defeat—cast into the lake of fire.

These accounts are divine object lessons: alignment with God brings blessing; opposition brings downfall. No wisdom, understanding, or counsel succeeds against the Lord—evident in everyday Christian experience when personal plans fail.

(17:13 - 19:23) The Unbreakable Nature of God's Sovereignty

Human opposition fails because God is sovereign in four unbreakable ways.

First, He is omniscient—knowing every thought before it forms (Psalm 139:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:19-20 states the thoughts of the wise are futile).

Second, He is omnipotent—no plan overcomes Him (Proverbs 19:21: many are man's plans, but the Lord's purpose prevails).

Third, He is immutable—His purposes do not change (Isaiah 46:10: His counsel stands, accomplishing all His purpose).

Fourth, He turns hearts—even kings' hearts are like streams in His hand (Proverbs 21:1).

No one can outmaneuver God. Every sin assumes it can hide, justify, or escape Him, but Proverbs 21:30 exposes this self-deception.

This applies to unbelievers plotting life without God and believers tempted to compromise, thinking God will overlook it once.

(19:25 - 20:39) Warning Against Self-Deception and Cultural Rebellion

Tom acknowledges that everyone, including himself, has countless times excused sin by thinking, "God will forgive me this one time," only to repeat it thousands of times.

Nations and ideologies mock biblical truth, believing science, politics, or culture can redefine reality.

He quotes Dale Tackett, noting that people follow scientific truth until it points to Christianity, then abruptly stop and embrace obvious lies instead.

The result of such rebellion is frustration, futility, and eventual judgment unless there is repentance.

For believers, Proverbs 21:30 is not terrifying but liberating: when enemies scheme against the church (as in Acts 4-5), their plans ultimately fail.

(20:40 - 22:25) Assurance in Trials and Opposition

When personal trials feel overwhelming, the truth that no counsel prevails against the Lord means

suffering is not ultimate—God's good purpose prevails.

He cites Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose," calling it one of the greatest verses because everything works for a Christian's good.

In spiritual warfare, Jesus promised the gates of hell shall not prevail (Matthew 16:18).

Tom recalls the cross as the ultimate human counsel against God—Pharisees, Romans, and Judas conspired, yet it fulfilled prophecy and became redemption's greatest victory.

He applies this to everyday opposition at work, in family, or in culture: coworkers scheming, bosses pressuring, or family issues arise, but no one can stop God's plans for His people.

Believers should prepare the horse—pray, work faithfully, and obey—but trust the victory to the Lord, as Proverbs 21:31 declares the battle belongs to Him.

(22:26 - 24:01) Dangers of Unintentional Opposition by Believers

Ironically, believers can unintentionally oppose God by relying on their own wisdom instead of His, planning without prayer and saying, "I'll handle it my way."

He references Frank Sinatra's song "My Way" as an example many follow, which may bring temporary pleasure but ultimately leads to loss.

People lean on worldly understanding, accepting that "everyone does it" and it's fine, or take bad counsel from culture rather than Scripture.

Tom warns that following cultural counsel leads to doom because the culture is headed straight to hell; instead, society needs to return to a Christian foundation.

James 4:13-15 warns against presumptuous planning without saying "if the Lord wills," because no one knows what tomorrow holds.

(24:01 - 25:18) The Antidote: Trust and Seek God's Will

The antidote is Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding."

Seek His counsel first, as in Psalm 1:1-2, and humble yourself under God's mighty hand (1 Peter 5:6).

This week, before any big decision, pause, ask "if the Lord wills," and let the Lord establish your steps (Proverbs 16:9).

Tom shares his personal practice: when facing big decisions, he prays extensively, sometimes even using a form of casting lots (placing options in a hat, praying, and selecting one), as he believes Scott also mentioned.

While not foolproof, it helps; ultimately, follow what God puts on your heart, pray earnestly, and align decisions with God's Word and will as best as possible.

(25:19 - 26:40) Call to Surrender and Encouragement

Proverbs 21:30 is a throne-room declaration: God reigns unchallenged.

If anyone fights God today through unbelief, rebellion, or secret sin, surrender now—no scheme succeeds against Him, but His mercy triumphs over judgment for those who turn.

He quips, "If you can't beat Him, join Him," asking how anyone could oppose a merciful, loving God who offers so much, when opposition only leads to pain, suffering, and eternal hell.

If weary from opposition, take heart: no wisdom against the Lord means enemies' plans are vapor.

If tempted to trust self, repent and lean wholly on the Lord.

(26:41 - 27:34) Closing Exhortation and Invitation

As the sermon wraps up, hold to Proverbs 21:30: no wisdom, insight, or plan succeeds against the Lord.

People can plan, prepare, and give their best, but victory and breakthrough belong to Him.

Go into the week resting in this truth—surrender plans to Him and watch Him work.

If the Spirit convicts anyone—whether to trust Christ for salvation or to realign life—come forward, pray where you are, or talk with someone after the service.

No counsel prevails against the Lord—He wins, and in Him, so do we.