

THE REALLY SUPREME COURT
11th and Final in a Series on Proverbs titled, “Mastering Life”
Proverbs 3:5-6

The New York Times had an article two years ago titled, “Prozac Nation is now the United States of Xanax.” In it, Alex Williams wrote, “Americans of 2017 can make a pretty strong case that they are the gold medalists in the Anxiety Olympics.” Sarah Fader, a social media consultant in Brooklyn said, “if you’re a human being living in 2017 and you’re not anxious, there’s something wrong with you.” I find that statement to be both tragic and hilarious at the same time. She claims it is impossible to have both oars in the water and still be at peace. In other words, there is no peace in this world. How sad. Is there really no way to have genuine peace? I believe a big reason for many people’s lack of peace has to do with what voice they listen to as the authority for their lives.

J. Scott Armstrong is a professor of marketing at the University of Pennsylvania, which is an Ivy League school. He has demonstrated that in our culture we listen to experts, regardless of the validity of their content. He calls it the “Dr. Fox Hypothesis” because his premise is based on an experiment featuring the aforementioned Dr. Fox. In this experiment an actor posed as expert Dr. Myron R. Fox. He delivered a lecture that actually was nothing more than unintelligible double talk, some raw material pulled from *Scientific American* woven into non sequiturs and contradictory statements interspersed with jokes and meaningless references to unrelated topics. The audience of professionals were given anonymous questionnaires and asked about the lecture. The general tenor of their responses was that they found the lecture “clear and stimulating.”

So people approved of what they’d heard even though it was nonsense, simply because it was delivered by a supposed expert. This raises the question of who you are going to listen to. Today we are going to look at a couple of familiar verses from Proverbs. But underlying these verses is the question of who we are going to listen to. Who is the authority that you trust to be the final word in your life? That is a hugely important question, because it has implications for our priorities and our daily choices. Let’s look at Proverbs 3:5-6.

WE HAVE A CHOICE WE MUST MAKE CONTINUALLY

There are three commands in these two verses. They are, “Trust in the Lord,” “Do not lean on your own understanding,” and “submit to him.” For the moment let’s think about those first two. Trust is a huge issue. When I meet with couples that are about to get married, one of the key issues we talk about is trust. Trust is the foundation of a good relationship. Without trust the relationship can never be very deep. Trust is at the very core of our relationship to God, and ultimately, to our security and peace in this world.

The Hebrew word that is used in this verse is actually about total reliance. One scholar says it depicts lying face down on a bed. When you are lying on a bed you committing yourself completely to the bed and are trusting it to hold you up. This Proverb tells us to rely completely on God. It says we are to do that with all our heart. That is actually an appealing image, isn’t it? I read an article about Tom Brady, now commonly recognized as the greatest quarterback ever to play football. It

said he has a couple of traits that almost seem contradictory. One is that he is cool and composed under pressure. That makes him able to be as precise as he is and exceedingly effective in running an offense. But he somehow combines that with being a fierce competitor. He competes with all his heart, and that causes teammates to want to follow him.

Though our culture still holds up the image of the “cool” person as being the example we’d like to emulate, the truth is that what we all long for is not to be cool, almost indifferent, but to be passionate. We are alive when we are passionate. I want to love passionately, meaning love with all my heart. I want to be loved passionately. I want to be passionate about whatever I might be doing, so that I am doing it with all my heart. That would be true of the job I do, but pretty much of any activity I might be involved in. I don’t want to be half in or half out. This Proverb tells us to be passionate, go all in on trusting God, on throwing ourselves on him without reservation.

The second verb, to lean, did not merely mean to tilt to one side. It means to lean on for support, the way you might lean on a crutch when you have an injured leg that can’t support you. So once again the picture is about relying on something.

In this case, we are told there is something we must not rely on. It is our own understanding. But this seems odd. We are told later in the Bible that God has given us a sound mind. In other words, he has given us a brain. Is he saying in this verse that we shouldn’t use it? Don’t listen to what your brain is telling you? So God gave us brains, but expects us not to use them except at the unconscious level where it controls the seemingly automatic functioning of our bodies? So you have to be brainless to be a believer? That doesn’t seem right to me.

Tax time is not far off, so I have already been working on our tax forms. I find IRS tax forms to be ridiculously arcane. They are truly tax forms because they tax my understanding. If I had to fill them out using my own understanding it would be a frustrating debacle that would likely end up with me in jail. No, I don’t lean on my own understanding to do them. But I don’t exactly lean on God either. I lean on Turbo Tax. I input answers to a bunch of questions it asks me and then it spits out a mile high stack of forms all filled out. I trust that software to do it right. I lean on Turbo Tax’s understanding. I count on them to know the laws and the right way to fill the forms.

I started using Turbo Tax because for a number of years we relied on, leaned on the understanding of, a professional tax service to fill out our forms. One year, unfortunately, they made some mistakes that I didn’t catch until a year later. It put us in a bad bind financially. I learned that when you lean on something and it is not trustworthy, you end up with grief. So we need to make sure that what we lean on is reliable.

God does expect us to use our brains. He doesn’t ask me to fill out my tax forms merely leaning on him. “Yeah, I don’t understand these forms, but that’s okay because I am going to rely on God and not lean on my understanding. I’m going to pray about it and just put numbers in those forms as God directs me.” The problem for me is that the IRS is not impressed by my reliance on divine guidance.

“It must be right, because it’s what God told me to do.” Too bad. It’s wrong and you owe us a huge chunk of money.

Well if I’m supposed to use the brain God put in my head, what does it mean not to lean on my own understanding, but to trust God? God has given us a great deal of direction and instruction about how we should live. He tells us what life is about, what is most important, what our priorities should be, what is morally right and wrong, how we should relate to people, how we should use our resources. His instruction applies to everything we are and do, both regarding why we do it and how. But our own brains also give us direction and instruction about how we should live. They also tell us what life is about, what is most important, priorities, what is morally right and wrong, how we should relate to people and so on. Unfortunately, the instruction from our brains doesn’t always agree with that from God. On whose instruction will we rely? Which court has the final say, God and his wisdom, or our own understanding?

There will be times when our own understanding says the same thing that God says to us. God says to us “You must not commit murder,” and our understanding agrees. That makes it easy. God and our brain are on the same page so there is no conflict. We just go with what both tell us. But it’s not always that way. There are also times when our brains tell us something different than what God says. Whose direction will we follow?

God told Adam and Eve to romp their way through the Garden of Eden, enjoying all of it. Oh, except for that fruit on that one tree. You must leave that one alone. Everything else is yours. Just stay away from that one tree’s fruit. God’s instruction was clear. But Eve heard from another voice that made sense to her. Her understanding said, “Yeah, how dare God deny us that fruit? It looks great, and I bet it’s true that he doesn’t want us to know what he knows and that’s why he made it a no-no. I’m sure that eating that fruit will be the best thing I’ve ever done.” Eve had a choice between God’s command and her own understanding. She leaned on her own understanding, and we know how that turned out.

I once was asked by a couple if I would meet with them and their college age son. They had been having a series of debates with their son over a whole range of topics. For the first time in their family’s life really, they were banging heads with him on almost everything that came up. I met with them and mostly listened as they disagreed over a number of topics. They ranged from issues like, could Jesus really be the only source of salvation, to, can it really be true that God considers all sex outside marriage to be sin, along with many others. The couple was puzzled by the fact that their son, with whom up until that point they had been totally on the same page, was now arguing with them over so many points. I’m not sure why they couldn’t see what was going on, but it didn’t take long before I got it. When they asked me what I thought I told them, “this is all *really* about one issue. It’s about what the final court of appeal is. How do you know what is right and true; is it what we think using our best reasoning, or is it what God has said?” In other words, I was saying, “Your son’s issue is that he wants to lean on his own understanding rather than on the wisdom of God.”

God says we should not steal, and our understanding says the same. No problem. Until you are doing your tax forms and you discover there is something you can fudge a little on that form and save a lot of money. No one will ever know. There's no way you can get caught. God says that is not honest. It is a form of stealing. But your brain says, "I could really use that money. And the government will never miss it. They're stealing me blind, anyway, and wasting my hard-earned money like drunken sailors. Why should I support that, at unnecessary expense to me?" Do you listen to God's command, or do you heed your own understanding?

In our nation many matters of right and wrong end up in the court system. Amazingly, if you disagree with a court's decision, you can appeal it to a higher court. If you aren't satisfied with that court's decision, you can appeal to a yet higher court. That court is the Supreme Court. It has final say. If there is disagreement between lower courts, the Supreme Court has authority to decide the issue. There is no more appeal. Who is the Supreme Court in your life? These verses tell us it should be God, and not "what I think."

Verse 6 tells us to submit to God in all our ways and he will make our paths straight. That's right in line with what I've just said. Unfortunately, that's not a great translation of that verse. It is an interpretation. The Hebrew word literally says we should "know God" in all our ways. What does that mean? It means we should walk with him and know him so well that we already *know* what he thinks. Laurie and I went out to a Mexican restaurant that we like some time back. I was looking at the menu and mumbling, "Hmm, what should I order?" Laurie said, "A combination plate with a chicken taco and a cheese enchilada." She didn't just make a wild guess or make that up on the spur of the moment. She knows me inside and out, including what I like to eat at Mexican restaurants. She knows how I think. She can even anticipate what I am going to say on many occasions. It's almost like I'm not needed because she can say my lines for me. That's the sense of this verse. Know God and what he wants, and choose that. The Holman Christian Bible translated it, "Think about God in all your ways and he will guide you." The New Living Translation has, "Seek God's will in all you do." Though those are not literal, that is the idea.

There are two ways to approach life. One is, we figure it out for ourselves. Sure, we take God's instruction into consideration, but at the end of the day we do what makes sense to us. Our thoughts are the Supreme Court. The other is to see God's instruction as the Supreme Court, the final say, and we do what he says even if it doesn't always make sense to us, even if we don't want to do what he says. We trust him utterly. Let me show you a couple of examples from the Bible of these two approaches.

Abraham and Sarah wanted a son in the worst way. The good news was that God said he would give them a son. The bad news was that many years had passed since God promised that, and nothing had happened. There were exactly zero pregnancies for Sarah. And the clock was ticking big time. In Genesis 16, Sarah made a suggestion that was routine, accepted practice in their day. It was what people did and no one gave it a second thought. She suggested that Abraham sleep with Sarah's servant, a woman named Hagar. Anyway, the idea was Abraham would get Hagar pregnant, she would give birth to a son and Sarah would then take the child as hers. It was sort of the first form of

being a surrogate mother. Abraham figured, “God promised us a son. He didn’t say how we would get one. That’s how everybody else whose wife can’t have kids does it. I guess that must be the way God wants us to do it, because the old fashioned way is a total fail.” So he leaned on his own understanding. It was not what God wanted at all. God had made it clear when it came to the sex thing that the two should be one...not the three should be one. Abraham did it the way that made sense to him, and he did get a son. But that one act is still having large repercussions today in a bad way.

Here’s another one. David was loyal to King Saul, to a fault. But Saul, driven by insecurity and paranoia, was convinced David was a threat to him. So he made it his administration’s number one goal to kill David. In 1 Samuel 21 David was on the run and he ended up at a place called Nob. He was hungry, had no food, he was unarmed and pretty much defenseless. He needed help. He also needed to remember what God had done in his life. God had told him he would be the next king of Israel, which could only happen if he were alive. That was, in effect, a divine guarantee that Saul would never be able to kill David. And David had already been given proof that God would fulfill that guarantee. In chapter 19 David was trapped at a place called Naioth. He had no escape. Saul sent groups of his finest troops, three times, to capture David to no avail, then he went himself. Every time God kept them from succeeding in a way that was miraculous and hilarious. David should have known at that point that he was Teflon when it came to Saul. Saul could not touch him. But when David got to Nob, fear got to him. He asked a priest named Ahimelech for help. Ahimelech wasn’t dumb. He knew about the problems between David and Saul, and now here was David showing up alone on his doorstep. So he asked David about that. David was afraid if he told the priest the truth, Ahimelech would send him packing. He wasn’t interested in siding with David against the reigning, divinely chosen king. So in verse 2, David said, “The king has sent me on a mission and said to me, ‘No one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on.’” Yeah, you know all that stuff about Saul wanting to kill me? That’s a cover story designed to explain why I’m out here all on my own. I’m actually on a secret mission from the king. So what would you call that? It was a flat out lie. David’s understanding said, “Man, if I tell the truth, I’m going to be killed because I have no weapons with which to defend myself.” He leaned on his own understanding. Chapter 22 tells us the result. Saul ordered not just Ahimelech, but every man, woman and child in Nob be slaughtered. All because David leaned on his own understanding.

But now I will flip that coin. Both of those men later faced the question of who was the Supreme Court in their lives with very different results. God eventually gave Abraham and Sarah a son after it was completely impossible for that to happen. Then, in Genesis 22, God did something utterly shocking. He told Abraham to sacrifice that son. It made no sense at all. It went against God’s own promise to Abraham and it totally violated God’s command not to commit murder. Abraham’s understanding said, “No way. This is not right. I will not do it.” But the same Abraham who had stumbled with trusting God in chapter 16 did not hesitate. He trusted God, not his own understanding. He was on the verge of doing exactly what God said when God intervened and stopped him. This time Abraham was leaning completely on God’s wisdom even when it seemed to him like the worst thing he could ever have imagined.

Then in 1 Samuel 24, David was hiding in a cave with some of his men. Saul and his men were in the area but couldn't find David. Saul needed to answer the call of nature, so he went into a cave to relieve himself with a little privacy. It was the very cave that David was hiding in. Saul was a dead duck. It looked like God had delivered him to David with wrapping paper tied up with a bow. David snuck up on him. Saul had no idea he was there. All David had to do was run him through with his sword and his problems were over. No more crazed, violent Saul. It made all the sense in the world. Clearly this was God's provision. And most everyone would applaud David's action. Plus, it would make a way for God's promise of the throne to David to come true. But David knew it was murder, and it was raising his hand against the man whom God had chosen to rule for that moment. Instead of leaning on his own understanding or on conventional wisdom that said he had every reason to assassinate Saul, David trusted God and let Saul live.

In both of those last two examples we see heroes of the faith who were imperfect men, faced with the decision we all face on a constant basis. Will I trust God and do it his way, or will I do whatever I think is best? In those two instances both Abraham and David, who had failed on previous occasions, chose to trust God rather than their own understanding.

THERE IS MOTIVATION FOR TRUSTING GOD

There is a promise in verse 6. If we will know God in all we do, if we will seek him, walk with him and do things his way, then he will make our paths straight. On the island of Maui there is a famous road that I suspect many of you have driven. It's the Hana Highway. It really shouldn't be called a highway. That makes it sound much more impressive than it is. It goes from Kahului, the town where the Maui airport is, to the little town of Hana out at the east end of the island. It's a distance of only about 50 miles, but it will take you three hours to drive it. If you do the math you will see that means an average of less than 20 miles per hour. That's because though the road goes through some spectacular scenery, it is very narrow and torturously winding. Laurie and I have never made that trip because we simply haven't wanted to get to Hana badly enough to spend that much time to get there and back, and we are not big fans of motion sickness. One time we drove part of the way on the road to go on a hike to some waterfalls. As we were slowly driving back, we came to yet another place where the road made an almost 180 degree turn to get around a small canyon. There was a car parked right at the turn, which was a bad place to stop because the road is so narrow. A guy had gotten out of the car and I thought he did so to take some pictures, because the scene was gorgeous. But when we got close, I saw that he wasn't snapping photos. He was bent over barfing his insides out. Yeah, that is one really windy road. So, what if someone made that road straight? That would be great. Then driving to Hana would be a snap.

Making a path straight is a way of saying, making it easy to get where you are going. It was used in ancient times when a king was going to visit a town, of the people improving the road... smoothing and straightening it so the king would have an easy time coming to town. So a lot of people interpret this to mean that this is promising God will make us successful in what we do. Or some people see it as saying God will show us where to go, telling us what we should do.

I don't believe either of those is quite right. I think the image speaks to God making a smooth easy road for us to reach our destination. But we need to be careful in applying that. What destination is in view? As I said some people interpret this to mean God will make a smooth, easy path for us to navigate through life so we will succeed in everything and always get what we want. But I don't think that is what was intended at all.

Let's back up and think about what the point of Proverbs is. It is about wisdom, which is key to mastering life. But what does it mean to master life? Let's use a musical instrument as an example. What does it mean if you master a musical instrument? If you've truly mastered it then you play it better than other people and you play it the way it should be played. You make the most of that instrument. Almost anyone can tell the difference between someone who can manage to play at least something on an instrument, and a world class musician who has mastered the instrument. If you master life, then you live it better than other people; you live it the way it should be lived. You make the most of life. This is the destination we should think of. God will make straight and smooth your road to the destination of mastering life, making the most of it, living it as it should be lived. But what does it look like when someone has mastered life? People commonly think it means status, wealth, power, pleasure and success. If you have those things you have mastered life. I submit that this is not correct. It is possible to have all those things and be unhappy, even miserable. Being miserable is not mastering life.

Mastering life means two things: First, fulfilling God's purpose for you. It means being what God intended for you to be and doing what he wants you to do. If you do that, then your life will have purpose and meaning. That meaning will infuse everything you do with significance. If your life has no meaning and is insignificant, then you are not mastering life. Second, mastering life means living to the fullest. Living to the fullest means being at peace, having joy, living a life full of love and having hope. If we have these things, peace, joy, love and hope, then life will be what it is intended to be.

If I have peace, joy, love and hope, then what I don't have won't matter. Suppose I have those things, but I'm not famous. Who cares? I'm at peace. My life is joyful. I'm loving and being loved. Fame doesn't matter. Suppose I have those things but I'm not rich. Once again that doesn't matter. Conversely, suppose I don't have peace, joy, love or hope. Then what I do have won't matter. Imagine that I am famous, powerful, successful and rich, but I don't have peace or joy. None of that stuff I have will matter at all.

If we master life, then what else we don't have won't matter. If we don't master life, then whatever else we do have won't matter.

These verses say there is a straight road to the destination we all long to arrive at. The destination is mastering life, living with meaning, peace, joy, love and hope. But there are two roads we can try to take. One is to trust God and follow his way in everything we do, the other is to think we know better than God, how to master life. Every day of our lives we will be faced continually with the choice of which road to take. Our culture and our own brains will be screaming at us to go the way

that makes sense to us, disregarding what God says. But the way to master life, the straight road to that great destination, is to trust God, rely on him, and not listen to our own brains when they disagree with him. With God as our Supreme Court, the road to mastering life is straight. If we have our own understanding as our Supreme Court, the road to mastering life becomes a narrow, rough, winding, dead end.

IMPLICATIONS

We like to be in control. In fact, the need to be in control at times feels urgent and irresistible to us. So our natural human default is to lean almost totally on our own understanding. Look at the ancient people of Israel. Repeatedly they faced situations where they were threatened by foreign nations. God said, “Trust in me, do not do what everyone else does and try to make an alliance with another nation to protect you.” Every time they leaned on their own understanding because trusting in God alone seemed like a recipe for certain disaster. It turned out every time that *leaning on their own understanding* was the recipe for disaster. We need to be aware that our default is leaning on our own understanding. We need to know that trusting God will seem risky, even foolhardy at times. But it is the only way to have God make our path to our destination straight.

When does the message of these verses come into play in our lives? The quick answer is all day, every day. But I will point out some ways we face the choices highlighted by these verses.

THIS CHOICE IMPACTS WHAT WE THINK IS IMPORTANT

All of us have some concept about what are the most important things to do. We naturally prioritize at least to some degree. That list of priorities will be a little different for each of us. But there are some things that will drive whatever list we have. The problem is that our lists are drawn up by our own brains. In other words, they come right out of our own understanding.

If we are going to rely on God, we are going to have to let his thoughts about what is most important rule over our own thoughts. His thoughts are not our thoughts. You can start with the verses that speak of how storing up treasure in heaven is much more important than feathering our nest in this life right now.

In Matthew 6:19-20 Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” Have you ever stopped and considered what he said there? He’s talking about God’s wisdom on what is important to do. Jesus said it is important to store up treasure not on earth but in heaven.

This is radical. Jesus said there are some characteristics of things on earth. They can be taken away or destroyed. They are at risk, whereas treasures in heaven cannot be damaged, stolen or destroyed in any way. They are eternally permanent. If you are focused on something that you can lose or can be stolen, taken away or damaged, you are focused on some earthly treasure. God’s wisdom says that is not the path to life.

Wait, this is crazy. If I took this literally, people would think I'm nuts. Yes, they probably would. But so what? At stake here is having a smooth path to our most desired destination, which is a life of love, joy, peace, hope, meaning and significance. Our understanding says that path is paved with stuff like money, position, status, approval, all stuff that can be ruined or taken away in the blink of an eye. God's wisdom says the path is paved with investing in bringing glory to God, doing his will, loving people, sacrificing ourselves for the kingdom of God. Here is a huge challenge: will you trust God or lean on your understanding?

THIS CHOICE IMPACTS WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT AND WRONG

Laurie and I were at a wedding. It was a ceremony performed by a couple of people who are pastors, so we expected a Christian wedding. We were surprised, and not in a good way. One of the pastors launched into a description of how relationships between two young people go. The description went something like this, "A young man and a young woman meet. They find they have some things in common. They feel drawn to each other. They go out together and get to know each other. Their fondness for each other grows. They move in together. They live together. After some time, they realize they love each other, then they get engaged, and that brings them to this day."

When I heard that my first reaction was, "Wait, did I hear that right?" This is a pastor saying the way the normal course a relationship should go is a couple dates, then lives together, then later gets engaged and finally married? That was what was said. And in our world today that is the assumed pattern. I see it with young couples all the time, and to my dismay, even some Christian couples.

My point is not to preach about the evils of couples living together before they get married. That's a topic for another time. My point is, what does God say about that in his wisdom? He tells us not to do that. So how is it that this has become pretty much accepted practice? People are leaning on their own understanding, not on God's instruction.

I don't want to talk about "those people." I want us to think about what *we* are doing. What determines the choices we make? Is it our own understanding, which is heavily influenced by our culture and the people around us? Or is it going to be determined by what God says?

This gets down to the very stuff of life and choices we make many times a day. How will I respond to the person who is rude to me? How will I treat my spouse when he or she has, in my mind, been selfish? How will I relate to the co-worker who is a jerk? How will I treat the friend who is being unreasonable? My understanding suggests courses of actions, and they are generally different than those God commands. Will I trust God, rely on his instruction, or will I take the Sinatra route and do it my way?

THIS CHOICE IMPACTS WHAT WE THINK ABOUT EVENTS IN OUR LIVES

There are going to be events and circumstances that will occur in the lives of every single one of us that are painful or unpleasant. We will encounter immovable obstacles and suffer huge

disappointments, great losses and terrible hurts. Hopefully it won't be all the time, but it will happen, and will happen more than we wish. Some of these events are so hard they will feel like God has abandoned us. They might cause us to question his love or even his existence, because we see no evidence of his presence or working in what has happened.

We recently had one of those experiences in a minor way. Our washing machine died, we had to replace the tires on our car, our dishwasher died, then we had a leak in our kitchen which led to an unexpected and expensive repair and replacing the floor in the kitchen, then we had to replace the furnace in our house. This all happened one right after the other. We got to the place where we were thinking, "Uh, what's going on, Lord?" Those are not big things, but it is easy to feel like God is not helping much. More to the point, we have had some difficult things happen in our extended family that feel like God is absent.

In those times, will we trust God, rely upon him, or lean on our own understanding? We will likely say, "I don't understand how God could allow this to happen." Right, we don't understand. Our understanding is if God is there and he loves us he would not let that bad thing happen. He would protect us from it. But the Scriptures say that God is there, he never leaves us, he is always seeking our good, and that he is working good for us even in this terrible circumstance. Will we trust God and rely on him, or will we lean on our own understanding?

In their book, *When Helping Hurts*, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert describe an amazing site in one of Africa's largest and worst slums. It is the huge Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. Conditions there are unimaginable. People live in cardboard shacks, foul smells emanate from open ditches that serve as sewers. It is a place that seems literally God forsaken. Amazingly the authors report being there, and to their surprise, hearing the sound of a familiar hymn. They followed it and found a 10 by 20 foot "sanctuary" made out of cardboard boxes that had been opened up and stapled to studs. Every Sunday, 30 slum dwellers, some of the poorest people on earth, gather to worship God. Those poor people raised their voices in praise to God, and poured out their prayers to him. In the middle of utter misery and poverty, those people are continuing to trust God.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. You might recall that the impoverished country was devastated by an earthquake back in 2010. Thousands of people were killed. Buildings and homes were leveled and what little infrastructure the country had was devastated. National Public Radio ran a story on it. Here is what they said: "For the western hemisphere's poorest country, the earthquake...was an especially cruel blow. Despite this, it's hard to find a Haitian who doesn't profess belief in a loving God." And they sing. Their response to the earthquake was to gather in open ground and sing praise to God. They are not leaning on their own understanding. They are relying on God. Will we?