



Pearls in Proverbs

Lesson #5

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Working Definitions of some Key Words

- Wisdom –
 - Looking at *life* from God's point of view
 - *What* to do in life.
- Knowledge –
 - Facts and information about *life*
 - *How* to do what I ought to do.
- Understanding –
 - To be able to sort out the issues of *life*
 - *Why* I should do what I ought to.

Proverbs 13:1

A wise child heeds a parent's instruction,
but a mocker does not respond to rebukes.

- One of wisdom's marks is remaining teachable.
 - Remain teachable and you will stay humble.
 - Remain teachable and you will continue to grow.
 - The wise understand the truth of Isa 28:10-13

Proverbs 13:2-3

2 From the fruit of their lips people enjoy good things,
but the unfaithful have an appetite for violence. 3 Those who guard
their lips preserve their lives,
but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.

- Words pass, but their consequences remain.
 - It is possible to feed your family just by talking.
(salesperson)
 - Choose your words wisely because they have great power.
 - When we think before we speak, we show wisdom and
limit our conflicts.

Proverbs 13:7

One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; a another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

- Money plays a small role in wealth.
 - The man of money thinks he is rich, but is poor in the things that count.
 - The poor man, however, may have riches untold laid up for him in heaven.
 - As comfortable as money can make us in this life is small consolation for the harm it does by masking our needs.
 - It is not a given that the poor are righteous and the rich are not, but it often works out that way.

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

- Hope sustains us as we wait upon God.
 - Imagine what it would be like to know of your sin problem and have to wait until death to know if you will end up in heaven or hell?
 - How agonizing would it be to have to wait for an uncertain outcome.
 - We are thankful that our hope is not in what might someday be, but is anchored in the truth of a certain savior and a certain future.

Proverbs 13:15

Good understanding wins favor,
but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

- ‘The way of transgressors is hard’
 - Man is the most wretched of all animals because he loves life, but knows he must die Voltaire
 - God has put a sense of eternity it into our soul as well as a sense of accountability for our sin. (Rom 2:14-15)
 - We look forward to going ‘home’, but the sinner thinks this is ‘home’; what could be harder?

Proverbs 13:20

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools
suffers harm.

- Your friends help to determine the quality of your life.
 - Just as iron sharpens iron, so wisdom yields wisdom.
 - When we are right with the Lord we also desire godly company.
 - You can minister 'to' anyone, but choose your friends wisely

Proverbs 13:24

Those who spare the rod hate their children,
but those who love them are careful to discipline them.

- Spare the rod, spoil the child.
 - Like our heavenly Father, we must be more concerned in where our children are headed than we are about their present comfort.
 - We must discipline promptly so that the penalty is associated with the action.
 - The caution we must add is that all rod and no love is as ineffective as all love and no rod.

Proverbs 14:4

Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty,
but from the strength of an ox come abundant harvests.

- If you want your church to be neat and tidy all the time, maybe ministry is not something you should try;
 - Ministry, by necessity, requires some work and sometimes messes.
 - If you don't have an ox your barn will stay orderly, but you also won't get much done.
 - We need 'oxen' that aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and make a mess ministering.

Proverbs 14:5

An honest witness does not deceive,
but a false witness pours out lies.

- The biblical rule is that we are to ‘speak the truth in love’ . (Eph 4:15)
 - We dare not sugar coat the gospel when it comes to pointing out our sin problem because no one wants to get saved until they realize they are lost.
 - Romans 10:17 tells us that ‘faith comes by hearing and by hearing the Word of God’.
 - Best witness is to be ready to give an answer (I Peter 3:15) and to answer with the Word.

Proverbs 14:9

Fools mock at making amends for sin,
but goodwill is found among the upright.

- We live in a world that makes fun of those who openly believe that sin exists, and that it has consequences.
 - By definition, a fool is one who lives like there is no God. (Psalm 53:1)
 - Therefore, the thought of making amends for sin is something they push out of their minds.
 - The only way they can deal with it is to not think about it because if they think about it they will soon conclude that they have a problem.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.

- One of just a few proverbs that are repeated word for word in 16:25. In my thinking, that means it must be important.
 - The first inclination of man is to try to approach God by our works. (as old as Cain)
 - It is totally natural, which is at the heart of what is wrong with the approach.
 - That which is reasonable and logical is not necessarily spiritual. (Eph 2:8-9)

Proverbs 14:20-21

The poor are shunned even by their neighbors,
but the rich have many friends.

It is a sin to despise one's neighbor,
but blessed are those who are kind to the needy.

- The sin of contempt – anytime we think that another person is inferior to us we are sinning.
 - Financial standing
 - Racial heritage
 - Intellectual capacity
 - James 2:1-7
- The bible repeatedly calls for the righteous to be kind to the poor and needy.

Proverbs 14:20-21

Those who fear the Lord have a secure fortress,
and for their children it will be a refuge.

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life,
turning a person from the snares of death.

- A fortress and a fountain;
 - God's people have a place of refuge.
 - The fear of the Lord gives us confidence because it rings true with our soul. (you know that you know that you know)
 - Fearing God also puts in the best position to enjoy life because it keeps us from sin.

Proverbs 14:20-21

A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but envy rots the bones.

- When we hold grudges or harbor resentment we hurt ourselves.
- Envy keeps us from contentment because we are obsessed with being like someone else.
- I Tim 6:6 'godliness with contentment is great gain'.

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

- The best way to diffuse an explosive situation is to lower your voice and speak calmly.
 - Rom 12:20 – ‘do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good’
 - Police negotiators use this very tactic, not because the bible says it, but because it works.

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere,
keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

- A governor for all.
 - Knowing that I cannot escape His sight has an effect on my behavior.
 - Knowing that He is always watching also drives home the truth that He never leaves nor forsakes.
- He not only watches over the believer, but He also watches the unsaved so that should they seek Him, he will not be far off.

Proverbs 15:6

The house of the righteous contains great treasure,
but the income of the wicked brings ruin.

- The great treasure is the things that really count.
 - Peace
 - Contentment
 - Clear Conscience
 - Joy
- The income of the wicked? (Achan)

Proverbs 15:13

A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance,
But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

- We know that attitude isn't everything, but it is important.
 - As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. (Prov 23:7)
 - The joy of the Lord is your strength. (Neh 8:10)
 - When we rest in the Lord, we are in the best position to smile.

Proverbs 15:16

Better is a little with the fear of the LORD,
Than great treasure with trouble.

- This the classic long term view that sets us free.
- A song that fits;
 - I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,
 - I'd rather have Jesus than riches untold,
 - I'd rather have Jesus than anything,
 - This world can offer me.

Proverbs 15:29

The LORD is far from the wicked,

But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

- We have seen before that the Lord watches over all of us, but He is not close to the wicked.
 - He is not in their thoughts.
 - He is not even welcome in their presence.
- On the other hand, He is close to the righteous.
 - A friend who sticks closer than a brother.
 - In fact, post Pentecost He lives ‘in’ the righteous.

Diligence

- [4:23](#) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
- [6:7](#) Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
- [6:8](#) Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
- [10:4](#) He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.
- [10:5](#) He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.
- [12:11](#) He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.
- [12:24](#) The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.
- [12:27](#) The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.
- [13:4](#) The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.
- [22:29](#) Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.
- [27:18](#) Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.
- [27:23](#) Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.
- [30:28](#) The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

Discretion

- **1:4**To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
- **2:11**Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:
- **3:21**My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:
- **11:22**As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.
- **13:23**Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.
- **18:17**He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.
- **19:11**The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.
- **22:3**A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.
- **25:9**Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:
- **26:17**He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

Questions / Comments