



# Pearls in Proverbs

## Lesson #7

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# Proverbs 19:3

The foolishness of a man twists his way,  
And his heart frets against the LORD.

- Ever notice how some folks who normally want nothing to do with the Lord find a way to blame Him when life hurts?
  - Why did God do this to me?
  - Why did God allow this?
  - It seems like God is against me?
- The first part of the proverb points out that his wounds are self inflicted. He is living as though there is no God, but wants to blame the one (who doesn't exist) for his woes.

# Proverbs 19: 5

A false witness will not go unpunished,  
And he who speaks lies will not escape.

- The warning is against those who would perjure themselves. It is serious enough to be repeated almost word for word in verse #9.
  - If I cannot believe you when you speak, why would I believe you when you speak of God?
- How seriously, as modern believers, do we really take this warning?
  - How precious is the truth to the Truth?

# Proverbs 19:11

The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger,

And his glory is to overlook a transgression.

- Discretion is essentially the ability to act responsibly on your own.
  - The crowd demands that you react in kind when wronged.
  - I Peter 2:23 (when He was reviled, He did not revile in return)
- Magnanimity is a seldom used word, but it aptly describes the truth of this proverb.
  - It is the act of overlooking a wrong despite the fact that you have power to the avenge it.
  - A quality that looks unassertive to the world is to be our adornment. Certainly this is a godly quality.

# Proverbs 19:14

Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers,

But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

- While parents delight in providing for their children, the most important things are out of our reach.
- We don't get to choose who they marry and few things play a bigger role in the quality of our lives than our spouses.
- Conclusion; pray.

# Proverbs 19:17

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD,  
And He will pay back what he has given.

- How about giving to the poor as an investment strategy?
- Math 25:44-45
- As with tithing, a wrong motive yields less than a full reward, a but it is hard to go wrong giving to the Lord because He will not be out given.

# Proverbs 19:20

Listen to counsel and receive instruction,  
That you may be wise in your latter days.

- Solomon told us in Ecclesiastes that there is a time for everything and there is time to learn wisdom and a time to be wise.
- When we are young (or perhaps young in the Lord) we are to listen and learn.
  - Ask God for a mentor if you don't have one.
- When we are old, it is expected that we will have something to say.

# Proverbs 19:23

The fear of the LORD leads to life,  
And he who has it will abide in satisfaction;  
He will not be visited with evil.

- I Tim 6:6 'Godliness with contentment is great gain'
- The one who fears the Lord has the foundation of a satisfying life.
- As a matter of fact, there is no other way to have a life that satisfies because we were made to have no rest until we rest in Him.
- The one who fears the Lord also does not bring evil upon himself. (few things cause more regret than self inflicted wounds)



# Proverbs 19:26

He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother  
Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

- Child abuse in reverse.
- It is one thing to be mistreated in this world, but it is especially hurtful when it comes from those that we nurtured and taught.
- The saddest part is that the one (the child) who ought to feel shame seldom does. The parents usually blame themselves.

# Proverbs 19:26

Cease listening to instruction, my son,  
And you will stray from the words of knowledge.

- We need to remember that walking with the Lord is an everyday thing.
- The warning to us is that when we stop seeking the Lord and his input to our lives that we will fall prey to other input.
- The world system is relentless in its bombardment of its message; shutting off input from God opens a clear path for the wrong message.

# Proverbs 20:1

Wine is a mocker,  
Strong drink is a brawler,  
And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

- ‘When the drink is in, the wit is out’ ... 20<sup>th</sup> century proverb from Grandma Hoffman.
- Alcohol loosens the tongue and alters personality. (cocktail hour, happy hour)
- Alcohol in excess (drunkenness) often makes one look foolish and sometimes makes the meek fierce.
- You can argue for ‘taking some wine for your frequent infirmities’ if you want, but drunkenness is called sin throughout the bible.

# Proverbs 20:6

Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,

But who can find a faithful man?

- It is easy to find someone to tell you how good they are. (and sometimes the older we get the better we used to be)
- It is fairly easy to find someone who will tell you how bad they are.
- It is hard to find someone who honestly admits to their faults and owns their virtues as gifts from God.

# Proverbs 20:9

Who can say, "I have made my heart clean,  
I am pure from my sin"?

- A proverb that is a rhetorical question.
- It is not answered in the proverb, but is certainly addressed throughout scripture.
- The answer ..... No one without Jesus and everyone with Jesus.
  - Also there is the standing and state of those in Christ to consider.
  - I have a sure foundation, but I sometimes stagger as I walk.

# Proverbs 20:17

Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man,  
But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

- Sin always has a bitter aftertaste.
- What was once so 'sweet' and satisfying soon becomes that which causes regret.
- How often have we learned by experience what God wanted us to learn apart from the hurt? (experience is a good teacher, but a distant second to obedience)

# Proverbs 20:22

Do not say, "I will recompense evil";  
Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

- We have not been given the charge to exact revenge. That is the Lord's job and He sometimes delegates a portion of it to the civil authorities.
- Romans 12:14, 17, 19-21
- We are to be peacemakers .... Most of the things we would want to avenge are personal affronts anyway and who are we to take offense when we ourselves have been so offensive?

# Proverbs 20:29

The glory of young men is their strength,  
And the splendor of old men is their gray head.

- Generational antagonism? May it never be that in the house of God we fail to appreciate where we are in life's journey.
- The young are often stronger, and more energetic while the older are wiser and more circumspect.
- This is the way life works and we ought to work with it by allowing the young to lift and the old direct. All get their turn to do both in due time.
- Too often, the young criticize the old for being 'foogies' and the old think that younger generation is going to 'pot'. My brethren, in the church, these things ought not so to be.



# Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD,  
Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

- God is able to accomplish His purposes through anyone. They may try to resist, but He is God.
- When we are oppressed by leaders, pray for them. 'be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good' This often takes grace to do, but it is right.
- We need not fear the outcomes of elections for God is still on His throne and His door is still open.

# Proverbs 21:3

To do righteousness and justice  
Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

- God cannot be bought; He is unimpressed by what we can bring on our own. (ask Cain)
- The previous proverb (21:2) points to the fact that we always think we have a better way, but we don't.
- Obedience (as Samuel told us) is better than sacrifice because obedience sacrifices our will to His will.
- Prov 23:6 'my son, give me your heart'

# Proverbs 21:6

Getting treasures by a lying tongue  
Is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.

- Can someone say 'scam artists'?
- Many a fast talker has talked himself into great sums of money while heaping up great sums of judgment.
- What does it profit one who gains the whole world while forfeiting his soul in the process?

# Proverbs 21:9

Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop,  
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

- This proverb does not provide grounds for divorce. It is an admonition to choose well.
- However, if you did not pick so well maybe you just need to keep to yourself more.
- Best case, spend some of that time that you hang out in the garage becoming a better peacemaker.
- People can be changed by the Lord, why not your spouse?

# Proverbs 21:17

He who loves pleasure will be a poor man;  
He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

- The love of pleasure seems to have no financial component. It is a common temptation of all.
- However, what is clear is that the love of pleasure never enriches one's life.
- In the same vein, those who pursue the party lifestyle (wine and oil) also do not prosper in any meaningful way.
- In fact, both lifestyles are dangerous distractions from the weightiest matters of life.

# Proverbs 21:20

There is desirable treasure,  
And oil in the dwelling of the wise,  
But a foolish man squanders it.

- The desirable treasure?
  - The pearl of great price that is worth selling all that we have in order to buy it (Math 13:44)
  - The hidden treasure that is worth selling all that we have to buy the field (Math 13:46)
  - True riches, lasting honor, and real life (Prov 22:4)
- The foolish man may see the same things, but does not recognize their value.

# Proverbs 21:31

The horse is prepared for the day of battle,  
But deliverance is of the LORD.

- In days of old a horse was a valuable tool in a battle. They put as much protective gear as possible on the horse, but it still had to be able to move.
- The parts that could not be protected without losing the advantage of having a horse had to be trusted to the Lord.
- The same is true for us in the battle of life. Whether it's finances, personal safety, etc ... we are to do as much as we can; then trust the Lord for what we cannot do.

# Fathers

- [4:1](#)Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.
- [4:2](#)For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.
- [4:3](#)For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.
- [4:4](#)He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.
- [4:11](#)I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.
- [5:1](#)My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:
- [6:1](#)My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,
- [10:1](#)The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.
- [13:1](#)A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.
- [17:6](#)Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.
- [17:25](#)A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him. [19:13](#)A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.
- [19:14](#)House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.
- [28:24](#)Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.



# Fear of the Lord

- [2:1](#) My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee
- [2:2](#) So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
- [2:3](#) Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
- [2:4](#) If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
- [2:5](#) Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
- [3:7](#) Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
- [8:13](#) The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
- [9:10](#) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. [10:27](#) The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.
- [14:2](#) He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.
- [14:26](#) In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.
- [14:27](#) The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.
- [15:16](#) Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.
- [16:6](#) By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. [19:23](#) The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil
- [.22:4](#) By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.
- [24:21](#) My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:
- [28:14](#) Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Questions / Comments