



# Pearls in Proverbs

## Lesson #8

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# Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it.

- This is not so much a promise that if do 'A' and 'B' that you will get 'C' as it is a reminder of a parent's opportunity to influence your children.
- Do not waste the years when their ears are open.
- Do all that you can and will you have few regrets no matter what they do with what you give.

# Proverbs 22:9

He who has a generous eye will be blessed,  
For he gives of his bread to the poor.

- It seems clear from scripture that it is God's will that we give to the poor.
- It is also clear that when we give to the poor for the right reasons that God blesses the giver.
- We are not sure of what the blessing will be; it could be additional finances or maybe something much better.

# Proverbs 22:10

Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave;  
Yes, strife and reproach will cease.

- Sometimes what is wrong is not procedural, but attitudinal.
- You may have a very talented person in an organization that simply has a bad attitude that affects the whole group.
- Try to correct them, but you will most likely have to 'fire' them or put up with the contention.

# Proverbs 22:17

Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise,  
And apply your heart to my knowledge;

- In all of our discussions thus far, let us not forget that there must be a willingness on our part to pursue wisdom.
- It is not that these proverbs are intellectually out of our reach; if we miss them it's because they are outside the path of our desires.
- A godly viewpoint (wisdom) is within the reach of all; the question is will we reach for it?

# Proverbs 22:18-21

## The Benefits of Reaching for Wisdom

- Vs 18) the principles are available for recall when you need them
- Vs 19) while you might think that wisdom makes you more self-reliant, it actually causes you to trust God more
- Vs 20) you are able to simplify some of the most complicated things of life
- Vs 21) you get a grip on the truth that comes across in your life and spills into lives of others

# Proverbs 22:24-25

Make no friendship with an angry man,  
And with a furious man do not go,  
Lest you learn his ways  
And set a snare for your soul.

- Not only does evil company corrupt good morals, but it is very contagious.
- It is easy (because it's natural) to blow your top at every bump in life's road, but is harmful to yourself and those around you.
- A quick temper is a trap that keeps us from being fruitful if for no other reason than it keeps others at bay and we forfeit any means of ministry to them.

# Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man who excels in his work?

He will stand before kings;

He will not stand before unknown men.

- The practical truth is that even the ungodly appreciate high quality performance no matter your occupation.
  - Sometimes our work performance opens doors of ministry.
- The spiritual truth is that when we 'do whatever we do as unto the Lord' we make our occupation a ministry and we will be rewarded when we stand before the King of Kings.



# Proverbs 23:1-3

## Beware of Success

- If you think you have 'arrived' in your career when the boss takes you to dinner understand that the most dangerous part of the climb has just begun.
- All that glitters isn't gold and it's especially true in our day. The world prizes eating at the finest tables above serving at the lowest ones. Would Jesus agree?
- There is virtue in taking the 'lower seat' and in being a 'doorkeeper in the house of the Lord'.

# Proverbs 23:10-11

10 Do not remove the ancient landmark,  
Nor enter the fields of the fatherless;

11 For their Redeemer is mighty;  
He will plead their cause against you.

- Those without defense will be defended by the Lord and woe to that person who seeks to advance himself at their expense.
- Those who take advantage of the disadvantaged will suffer the consequences of their deeds.
- In such cases, the prosecutor also happens to be the judge. An acquittal will not happen.

# Proverbs 23:13-14

13 Do not withhold correction from a child,  
For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

14 You shall beat him with a rod,  
And deliver his soul from hell.

- 'deliver his soul from hell' in verse 14 is not an ancient way to salvation, but points to the truth that if left to go our own way that it will be the broad way.
- Discipline applied with love puts one in the best position to hear and believe the truth.
- It is healthy for all to associate unpleasantness with disobedience.

# Proverbs 23:17-18

17 Do not let your heart envy sinners,  
But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day;

18 For surely there is a hereafter,  
And your hope will not be cut off.

- Just to show us how upside down our thinking is sometimes; we are naturally prone to envy sinners.
  - **Envy those who are destined for hell?**
  - **Envy those who have no peace in this life?**
  - **Envy those who prosper for a moment, but lose for eternity?**
- We need to put the time frames into perspective.
  - **Now is short**
  - **Forever is long**

# Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth, and do not sell it,  
Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

- What a simple way to relate the value of truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding; 'where our treasure is will our heart be also'.
- We understand our values best when we look at our checkbook.
- We understand what we treasure most by what we hang on to the tightest.

# Proverbs 23:24-25

24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,  
And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.

25 Let your father and your mother be glad,  
And let her who bore you rejoice.

- The parents of the righteous rejoice not that their kids have great careers, but because their names are written in heaven.
- There is no greater gift that one generation can give another than a life lived for the Lord.
  - If you don't believe me, attend a few funerals of the saved and the lost. The righteous have hope, the lost have only memories.

# Proverbs 23:29-35

## A great time?

- Alcohol not only alters your personality, but it alters your life.
- It has brought many to ruin and has caused untold pain.
- The drinker often thinks he is 'cool', but is much closer to a 'fool'.
- Alcohol is addicting as evidenced by the way that many so eagerly return to it's misery.

# Proverbs 24:3-4

Through wisdom a house is built,  
And by understanding it is established;  
By knowledge the rooms are filled  
With all precious and pleasant riches.

- You want a great house? Ask God to build one for you.
- Great houses are not necessarily the biggest and the most expensive, but the ones where Jesus is honored and comfortable.
- Fill your rooms with treasures that do not rust, and with possessions that cannot be eaten by moths, or stolen by thieves.
- What a struggle it is for us to keep this straight!



# Proverbs 24:5-6

A wise man is strong,  
Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength;  
For by wise counsel you will wage your own war,  
And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

- Wisdom equips us for the big battles of this life.
- When we allow the Lord freedom in our lives we are at our best to fight the fight of faith.
- Surround yourself with many wise counselors; it's the safest path.

# Proverbs 24:10

If you faint in the day of adversity,  
Your strength is small.

- If you fall apart and turn from the Lord when life gets tough it doesn't mean that you don't know Him; but it might mean that you don't know Him well.
- It does not mean that you have no strength; but probably means that you are weak due to underdeveloped spiritual muscles.
- That's the bad news .... The good news is that God is still God as well as the God of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 1000<sup>th</sup> chances.
- So get started; not at Gold's Gym, but at God's Gym.

# Proverbs 24:11-12

Deliver those who are drawn toward death,  
And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.

If you say, "Surely we did not know this,"

Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it?

He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not  
render to each man according to his deeds?

- Can you say 'missionary effort' and 'responsibility' ?
- We are not responsible for the decisions of the hearers of the word, but we are responsible to announce it.
- God, make our feet beautiful!

# Proverbs 24:17-18

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,  
And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;  
Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him,  
And He turn away His wrath from him.

- God is not pleased when we take pleasure in another's misfortune.
- We have not been called to condemn, but to love.
- Can it really be that God would lighten the penalty of our enemy just to teach us a lesson? Apparently so.

# Proverbs 24:26

He who gives a right answer kisses the lips.

- Straight shooters who give honest answers are rare and appreciated.
- Many are refreshed by a person who will not play the politics of saying whatever we want to hear and constantly 'adjusting' the truth.
- It is a 'kiss on the lips' (special charm) to have the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

# Proverbs 24:28-29

Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause,  
For would you deceive with your lips?

Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me;  
I will render to the man according to his work."

- This is a clear violation of the golden rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".
- It is not our job to meet out justice, but rather mercy becomes the believer.
- What if God rendered to us according to our works?

# Proverbs 24:30-34

## Discerning between the poor and self-inflicted.

- We have seen many times that we are to care for the poor and that God has pity upon them.
- However, there are cases where poverty is self-inflicted and we need to tread carefully between helping and enabling.
- When in doubt, be generous, kind, and trust God to guide you.

# Fool

- [10:23](#) It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.
- [11:29](#) He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.
- [12:15](#) The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.
- [12:16](#) A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame
- [12:23](#) A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.
- [13:16](#) Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.
- [13:20](#) He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
- [14:16](#) A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.
- [15:5](#) A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.
- [15:14](#) The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.
- [17:10](#) A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.
- [17:16](#) Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?
- [17:25](#) A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.
- [17:28](#) Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.
- [18:2](#) A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.
- [18:6](#) A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.
- [18:7](#) A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.
- [19:1](#) Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.
- [19:2](#) Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.
- [19:13](#) A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.
- [19:29](#) Judgments are prepared for scorers, and stripes for the back of fools.
- [24:7](#) Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.
- [26:7](#) The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools
- [26:11](#) As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly
- [26:12](#) Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.
- [27:3](#) A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.
- [28:5](#) Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.
- [29:9](#) If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.



# God, sovereignty

- [16:4](#)The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.
- [16:33](#)The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.
- [17:5](#)Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.
- [20:12](#)The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.
- [20:24](#)Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?
- [21:1](#)The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.
- [21:30](#)There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.
- [22:2](#)The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.
- [26:2](#)As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.
- [27:1](#)Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Questions / Comments