



Pearls in Proverbs

Lesson #9

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Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

- Deut 29:29 – ‘the secret things belong to the Lord’
- Part of what makes God so compelling is the mysteries that surround Him. We are busy pondering many of His ways our entire lives.
- On the other hand, with respect to earthly matters, kings need to know the details of what is going on in their kingdoms.
- Conclusion; God can be trusted when He is mysterious, we cannot.

Proverbs 25:6-7

Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king,
And do not stand in the place of the great; For it is better that he say to
you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence
of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.

- Great social advice Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to. 'what is man that thou art mindful of him?'
- Greatness is never seized, it can only be given.
- Self promotion not only makes you look silly, it also makes you a target for demotion.

Proverbs 25:11-12

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold
In settings of silver.

Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold
Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

- The power and value of our words when spoken with love.
- When we deliver even the hard truth in a spirit of love it can be received as a treasure.
- Love is something that God builds within us, the delivery is an acquired skill.

Proverbs 25:14

Whoever falsely boasts of giving

Is like clouds and wind without rain.

- Big talkers are usually small givers.
- Some teachers have gained huge followings by making big promises, but they are soon found out and must move on to a new following.
- Cloudy skies during a drought are worse than no promise at all because they raise our hopes only to dash them.
- False teachers making empty promises have steered many into hell.

Proverbs 25:21-22

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat;
And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;
For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the Lord will reward
you.

- What a hard command to obey because it is exactly counter to what we naturally want to do Which, again, is at the heart of what is wrong with our natural inclination.
- This command is repeated and clarified in the N.T. (Rom 12:20-21)
- The best way to overcome our enemies is to convert them to friends. Is that not what Jesus did for us? (Rom 5:10)

Proverbs 25:26

If the godly compromise with the wicked, it is like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring.

NLT

- When we compromise the truth to soft pedal it to our audience, we make the message ineffective.
- We are told to 'come out from among them and be separate'.
- Half truth is no truth at all Who wants heaven 'til they know of hell?

Proverbs 25:27

It is not good to eat much honey;
So to seek one's own glory is not glory.

- Too much of a good thing becomes a bad thing.
- When we do the things that we do just to receive applause, the good thing (the applause) has overtaken us.
- Do not be driven by what feels good, but by what is good.
- We are to lay up treasure for ourselves, not wood, hay, and stubble.

Proverbs 26:4-5

Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest you also be like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest
he be wise in his own eyes.

- Reasoning with the unreasonable.
- The balance between wasting your breath on those who will never listen, and not allowing their errors to go unchallenged.
- There is a time to do each one.
- Correct them gently, but those who will not hear us ought not to be allowed to distract us from our mission indefinitely.

Proverbs 26:8

Like one who binds a stone in a sling
Is he who gives honor to a fool.

- Just as a sling is an instrument of death, so is giving honor to a fool.
- When we condone, promote, or otherwise encourage foolish behavior we lessen the fool's chances of salvation.
- How so? Because they begin to think that they are O.K.
- This may simplify our lives, but it certainly complicates the next life of the fool.

Proverbs 26:12

Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?

There is more hope for a fool than for him.

- Of all of the criticism that has been leveled at the fool in this chapter, those who have examined themselves and found no faults are worse off.
- The fool has a better chance of coming to Christ than the one who sees his need and tries to solve it himself.
- There is a way that seems right to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 26:13-16

The Lazy Man

- Always has reason why he can't go to work. (there is a lion out there)
- Has a lot of movement, but makes no progress. (the door on it's hinges)
- Has elevated eating to a form of work. (buries his hand in his dish)
- Thinks that the people who go to work are the ones with the problem. (the 7 who can answer sensibly)

Proverbs 26:17

He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own
Is like one who takes a dog by the ears.

- There is a time to mind your own business and a time to intervene and God help us to know the difference.
- Get involved in a domestic dispute and you will probably end up being double teamed.
- We get involved when someone is getting hurt.

Proverbs 26:23-26

Out of the abundance of the Heart

- Smooth talk sometimes covers wicked motives. (like a silver veneer on pottery)
- Be wary of those who flatter you, they may have a selfish motive.
- In the end, what is in the heart will come across the lips It just might take some time.

Proverbs 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow,
For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

- This is not an admonition against making plans. It's statement of perspective warning against presumption.
- This sin is the counterpart of 'worry'. One fears that tomorrow will never come and the other assumes that it can't be stopped.
- Right perspective; embrace tomorrow as part of God's plan if it does arrive, but be prepared to meet Him if it doesn't.

Proverbs 27:2

Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth;
A stranger, and not your own lips.

- Self praise stinks, and it just is not very becoming. Especially for the Christian.
- The practical truth is that if you praise yourself, others who may have wanted to compliment you will see no need to open their mouth.
- Praise is a form of encouragement and if you are already encouraging yourself why would others see the need?

Proverbs 27:5

Open rebuke is better
Than love carefully concealed.

- A rebuke can bring growth and help us to be better, but a hidden love does nothing for us at all.
- Better to be frank in our dealings with each other, than to hide our feelings.
- It is always good to know where we stand with those around us.

Proverbs 27:7

A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb,
But to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

- Those with many possessions have little interest in the simple things. (the honeycomb)
- That is the curse of riches; we lose appreciation for the simple things.
- Those whose possessions are few appreciate them all the more and they appreciate more things.

Proverbs 27:12

A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself;
The simple pass on and are punished.

- As we grow in Christ we should have a heightened sense of evil in our path.
- As we grow in Christ we should also know our own weaknesses and avoid them.
- One of our primary ways of escape (1 Cor 10:13) is to say 'no' and better to say 'no' in advance by avoiding the temptations in our paths.

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

- Just as iron sharpens iron, so we should 'sharpen' our friends. (challenge them to be better)
- If our friends don't help us to grow then they are probably stifling our growth.
- When we spur our friends to love and to do good works we are more like our friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:19

As in water face reflects face,
So a man's heart reveals the man.

- If you want to know what you are like and who you really are, a mirror will be no help.
- You are a spirit, you have soul, and you live in a body.
- As in so many cases, we spend more time on the seen than we do on the unseen.
- Better to be simple looking with a pure heart than pure looking with a simple heart.

Proverbs 27:21

The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,
And a man is valued by what others say of him.

- Just as heat purifies and reveals what is in silver and gold, so we are known by what others say about us.
- To be sure, some may try to defame us, but on the whole and over time you are what your reputation says you are.
- The importance of a good name to our testimony.

Heart

- [4:23](#) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
- [7:25](#) Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.
- [8:5](#) O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.
- [12:25](#) Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.
- [15:7](#) The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.
- [15:14](#) The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.
- [15:15](#) All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.
- [15:28](#) The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.
- [17:16](#) Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?
- [17:20](#) He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.
- [17:22](#) A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.
- [19:3](#) The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.
- [19:21](#) There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.
- [22:5](#) Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.
- [22:11](#) He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.
- [23:26](#) My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways
- [.26:25](#) When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.
- [28:26](#) He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Humility

- 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
- 3:34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.
- 11:2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.
- 16:19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.
- 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?
- 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.
- 25:27 It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.
- 27:2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.
- 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.
- 30:2 Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.
- 30:3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

Questions / Comments