



Pearls in Proverbs

Lesson #10

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Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues,
But the righteous are bold as a lion.

- Running from God;
 - We try to witness, but they push us away
 - We invite them to church, but they won't come
- Pre-conversion, many have this sense that something terrible will happen to them if they try to approach God.
- The fact is that what they really fear is that something 'life changing' will happen to them.
- We need to have the faith and 'boldness' to go after them.

Proverbs 28:4

Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,
But such as keep the law contend with them.

- ‘Without revelation, all is soon relevant’ (Derek Kidner)
- If there is no standard then every man must do what is right in his own eyes and we know where that leads. (see also Prov 29:18)
- Even though we may live in a wicked society, each time we let our light shine we dispel some of the darkness around us.
- God is indeed ‘glorified’ (seen) in our good works.

Proverbs 28:8

One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion
Gathers it for him who will pity the poor.

- Crime does not pay; it costs everything.
- The wicked man who lies, cheats, and extorts his way to a comfortable life now will ultimately lose it all.
- It all goes to God's Good Will store and He who pities the poor will distribute the goods as He sees fit.

Proverbs 28:9

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,
Even his prayer is an abomination.

- God, and His blessings are not a cafeteria plan where you to pick and choose what you want.
- The warning is to those who would ignore the teachings of the bible while wanting it's author to make special rules for them.
- Think of the person who prays for wisdom, but will not take the time to read the book of wisdom.

Proverbs 28:13

He who covers his sins will not prosper,

But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

- Psalm 32:1-5
- You cannot grow as a Christian if you will not be honest with God. (who are we really kidding?)
- Sometimes we hate what we have done, but God will not be surprised when we tell Him about it.
- If you want God's mercy, come clean. If you want His mercy quickly, come clean quickly.

Proverbs 28:19

He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,

But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

- A principle that repeats is that work is ordained by God for our good.
- God provides work so that He can provide for us.
- You don't have to have a great job to have a great life. Work to the best of your ability and trust God to do what you cannot do.
- The 'birds of the air' in Matthew 6 are fed by God, but not spoon fed; they must gather up what He provides.

Proverbs 28:27

He who gives to the poor will not lack,

But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

- It seems to be an inescapable truth; give to the poor and God will give to you.
- ‘Give and it will be given unto you’ Luke 6:38
- The one who deliberately hides his eyes from a need will have many curses; no peace now and plenty of judgment later.

Proverbs 29:3

Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice,

But a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.

- Another theme that is repeated; children who love the Lord are a source of joy for parents.
- As in the heavenly family, so it is in the earthly family; godly parents want the best for their children and there is nothing better than a life lived for God.
- May it be true of us that we make our Father rejoice because we love wisdom.

Proverbs 29:10

The bloodthirsty hate the blameless,
But the upright seek his well-being.

- The good works of the righteous expose the wicked, therefore they hate those who 'show them up'.
- The righteous, on the other hand, do not return in kind.
- The righteous seek to be more than conquerors by making our enemies our friends.

Proverbs 29:16

When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases;
But the righteous will see their fall.

- As sure as night follows day, the more wicked there are the more wickedness there will be.
- The righteous will see their fall, but the righteous also want to rescue as many as possible.
- If it gives us pleasure to know that 'they will get theirs' then we have a problem nearly as bad.
- We need to see their 'fall' coming and have pity on them. (have a vision for reaching them before it's too late)

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare,
But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

- When we fear people we tend to avoid them, but they need contact with us.
- The snare that it brings is the shame we either feel now, or one day will, for not reaching out to them.
- The snare is also a trap of the devil to keep those he has now.
- Rather than fear and avoid people, trust God to protect you as you reach out.

Proverbs 30 & 31

The Words of Agur and King Lemuel

- These last (2) chapters are by two men that we are told little about beyond their names.
- We could speculate as to who they were and why God included their writings, but that is all it would be, speculation.
- Perhaps God is showing us just one more time that He can do great things through unknown people who will yield to Him.

Proverbs 30:2-3

Surely I am more stupid than any man,
And do not have the understanding of a man.
I neither learned wisdom
Nor have knowledge of the Holy One.

- Like Paul saw himself as the chief of sinners, so this writer sees himself with great humility.
- He wasn't really saying that he didn't have any wisdom, nor have any knowledge of God, but was saying 'compared to how close to Him I want to be, I have just begun'.
- How many times have you thought that the more you learn the less you know?

Proverbs 30:2-3

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?

Who has gathered the wind in His fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is His name, and what is His Son's name,
If you know?

- **Five questions with the same answer.**
- **How interesting that he asks about his son's name?**
- **Could it be that God was dropping a hint about the identity of the coming Messiah?**

Proverbs 30:7-9

Character and Circumstance

- Two requests converge upon one goal, godliness.
- Let me be a person of integrity, a person of character.
- Let not my circumstances set me up for failure.

Proverbs 30:11-14

Four Facets of Arrogance

- We don't need the values of our parents.
- We are wise enough to set our own standards.
- We are able to solve our own problems.
- We will get ahead and it does matter who we hurt in the process.
- The problem with each is that any success they bring has a short shelf life

Proverbs 30:15-16

The Outcome of Arrogance

- Those who thumb their nose at God have all sorts of unmet needs; they try everything they can on their own, but are never satisfied with life.
- In the end, they go to a place where their suffering will continue and never be satisfied.
- A place of fire, a place of thirst, a place of emptiness, and a place of finality.

Proverbs 30:18-19

Mysteries of Life

- He sees some things difficult to negotiate.
- Three are solved by science, and one is so complex that only love can negotiate.
 - Air
 - Land
 - Sea
 - Women

Proverbs 30:21-23

Things too big for their britches.

- Few servants can handle the spotlight that comes with success.
- Filled fools see no reason to prepare for the future.
- Hateful women who marry feel vindicated and will not change.
- Servants who surpass those whom they served have trouble with the reversed roles.

Proverbs 30:24-28

Things Little, But Wise That Glorify God

- The ants somehow know to prepare for the future.
- The badgers somehow know a safe place when they see it.
- The locusts somehow know how to organize.
- The spider somehow knows luxury when it sees it.

Proverbs 30:24-28

Things Stately That Glorify God

- The lion is king of the beasts and commands respect just by his presence.
- The greyhound is odd looking, but so smooth in it's gait.
- A male goat with his horns and goatee looks wise for a barnyard creature.
- The confidence exuded by the king whose troops are with him.

Proverbs 30:32-33

To Sum It All Up

- If God can be glorified by ants, badgers, and goats surely He should be seen in those created in His image.
- The God of mysteries like flying, and love can certainly unravel the mysteries of your life.
- See yourself as compared to Him and you will find your rightful place in life.

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Right Woman

- Throughout the book, young men have been warned about the wrong kind of women, now the right kind of woman is unveiled.

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Right Woman

- The good woman is of more value than rubies, gold, silver, etc
- The good woman is trustworthy.
- The good woman is kind looks out for her husband's interests.
- The good woman works and may well be a good business person.

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Right Woman

- The good woman gets up early to take care of her household.
- The good woman can think things through and make real estate decisions.
- The good woman takes care of her health and seeks to build her strength.
- The good woman works into the evening and even makes clothes for her household.

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Right Woman

- The good woman gives to the poor.
- The good woman frees up her husband to excel in his work.
- The good woman clothes herself with strength and honor in her character.
- The good woman speaks wisely and spends time raising her children.

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Right Woman

- But about the husband of the good woman?
- What kind of man should the good woman marry?
- She should marry a man who is worthy of her and a suitable mate probably does not exist.

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Right Woman

- The fact is that Proverbs 31 woman does not exist, but parts of her exist in every woman who will follow God and allow Christ to be formed in her.
- Then He will take her and the talents that she brings and make her into the 'right woman'.
- Once you have godliness, the rest of the package is just details.

Integrity

- **11:3**The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.
- **19:1**Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.
- **20:7**The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
- **20:11**Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.
- **20:14**It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.
- **22:28**Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.
- **28:21**To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

Justice

- **8:15** By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.
- **11:1** A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.
- **16:11** A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work.
- **17:15** He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD
- **17:23** A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment. **19:28** An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity
- **20:14** It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.
- **21:3** To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
- **28:5** Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.
- **28:21** To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.
- **29:24** Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not
- **29:26** Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD. **31:8** Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. **31:9** Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Questions / Comments