

Proverbs for Living – Sept. 27, 2023

King Solomon. **1 Kings 3** – Solomon became king after David; felt ill prepared

- God came to Him in a dream: asked what he wanted God to give him; Solomon said: I am very young... your chosen people.. wisdom to rule.
- **Vs. 10** – “The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for— riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!”

It is said Solomon was the wisest man to ever live:

- **1 Kings 4:29-34** - “God gave Solomon very great wisdom and understanding, and knowledge as vast as the sands of the seashore. In fact, his wisdom exceeded that of all the wise men of the East and the wise men of Egypt. 31 He was wiser than anyone else . . . 32 He composed some 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. He could speak with authority about all kinds of plants, from the great cedar of Lebanon to the tiny hyssop that grows from cracks in a wall. He could also speak about animals, birds, small creatures, and fish. 34 And kings from every nation sent their ambassadors to listen to the wisdom of Solomon.

Proverbs – **31** chapters. 1-a-day. Short statements that declare truth, designed to give us wisdom for living.

Eccles. 12:9-10 – “Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.”

Mom. Every day... like this: **Prov. 3:13-15** – “Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, 14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.”

We need Proverbs. Far too often we seek \$, not wisdom.

We started last week - **Prov. 3:11-12** – “do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves...”

Here are 5 Proverbs you need to know:

1 - Prov. 11:17 – NIV – “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

- **Guard:** protect it. Guards keep things out that shouldn’t be there. What should not be in your heart? Poison.
 - **Matt 15** – **Jesus** said what goes in our mouths doesn’t defile us.
 - **Mt. 15:18** – “the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and those things defile the person.”
 - Defile - pollute/poison us
 - Keep the poison out... toxic relationships.
 - Keep pollution out... gossip, negativity,
 - Keep out Enemy lies... b/c what we think, we feel in the heart.
 - What we allow in the heart can **poison or purify** us.

2 - Prov. 11:24 - Berean Std Bible – “One gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor.”

3 principles at work here.

① James 4:17 – “it is sin to know what you ought to do & then not do it.”

② Gal. 6:7 - “A man reaps what he sows.”

- If we sow mercy, we receive it. If we forgive, we’re forgiven.
- Withholding good is part of this. God withholds from us.
 - God doesn’t pour blessings into closed hands.

③ 2 Cor. 9:6 – “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

- Plant a few seeds, get small crop. Plant generously, generous crop
- **Prov. 11:25** – “The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”
 - Don’t give reluctantly, grudgingly, or in response to pressure.
 - **2 Cor. 9:7** – “God loves a cheerful giver.” **Can’t outgive God.**

- 3 - Prov. 27:17- NIV** -“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”
- Blacksmith – iron not typically used to sharpen iron. Use whetstone.
 - Knives: sharpened w/ whetstone / Sharpening Rod - removes dull edge.
 - 2 similar knives don’t sharpen each other very well.
 - To sharpen an iron blade - use tool w/ different edge / texture.
 - Blade is sharpened by resistance; similar blade has little 2 offer
 - Wonder why you have that difficult boss... coworker... parent...?

These people – different from us – kind-of abrasive – actually help us. They sharpen us – make us better. We get it. Understand. Not dull.

 - We learn from different people, some by good example, some bad.
 - **Proverbs 27:17** encourages us to be around people who can **sharpen us by friction...** who are different enough to shape us
 - We need friends who challenge us, different perspectives; have grit to sand our dull edges.
 - We tend to stay in our camp ... with our “tribe,” but there’s not always a lot of sharpening going on.

4 - Prov. 12:10 – “The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.”

- The righteous know that animals have value; they matter. “It is good”
 - One of man’s 1st responsibilities was to care for God’s creation.
 - God entrusted animals to us. Be on board w/ ethical treatment.
 - Our care for them teaches us how God cares for us.
 - Good people? Notice how they care for their animals.

5 - Prov. 12:16 – NIV – “Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.”

- Cont.Eng.V. – “Losing your temper is foolish; ignoring an insult is smart”
- Don’t be quick-tempered; “a wise person stays calm when insulted”
 - Just b/c someone is dishing it out doesn’t mean you have to eat it.
 - God’s opinion of you matters more than the words of others.
- **Prov. 29:11** – “Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.”

Learn to hold your tongue. Don’t hit send. **Learn to respond, not react.**

- If you don’t manage your emotions, they will manage you.

Song of the week – “Thy Word” by Amy Grant

