

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 24

11/21/12

Wisdom Instructions On Dealing With Wickedness

THEME: Wisdom For All People (Chapters 10-24)

PURPOSE: Solomon wanted to impart wisdom to all people, regardless of their age, sex, or position in society. These short, wise sayings give us practical wisdom for daily living. We should study them diligently and integrate them into our life.

OUTLINE:

- I. THE HOUSE WISDOM BUILT (24:1-9): It "becomes strong through good sense" and "through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables."
- II. RESCUE THE PERISHING (24:10-12): If you do not help those unjustly sentenced, God will punish you.
- III. LIKE HONEY TO THE SOUL (24:13-14): If you eat wisdom, you will have a bright future and your hopes will be fulfilled.
- IV. DOWN SEVEN TIMES (24:15-16): The godly are able to overcome misfortune.
- V. WHEN ENEMIES FALL (24:17-22): If you rejoice over the misfortune of the wicked, God will be displeased with you.
- VI. PARTIALITY AND PREPARATION (24:23-27): Do not declare the guilty innocent or you will be denounced by the nations. Develop your business before building your house.
- VII. RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL (24:28-29): Do not lie or testify spitefully against others.
- VIII. LEARN FROM THE LAZY (24:30-34): Laziness will bring poverty.

Proverbs 24
(New International Version)

(Verses 1-9) THE HOUSE WISDOM BUILT: It "becomes strong through good sense" and "through knowledge its rooms are filled with all sorts of precious riches and valuables."

Do not envy the wicked, do not desire their company; ² for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about making trouble. ³ By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; ⁴ through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. ⁵ The wise prevail through great power, and those who have knowledge muster their strength. ⁶ Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers. ⁷ Wisdom is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths. ⁸ Whoever plots evil will be known as a schemer. ⁹ The schemes of folly are sin, and people detest a mocker.

PROVERBS 24:5

The athlete who has wisdom—who assesses the situation and plans strategies—has an advantage over a physically stronger but unwise opponent. We exercise regularly and eat well to build our strength, but do we take equal pains to develop wisdom and knowledge? Because wisdom is a vital part of strength, it pays to attain it.

PROVERBS 24:6

In any major decision we make concerning college, marriage, career, children, etc., it is not a sign of weakness to ask for advice. Instead, it is foolish not to ask for it. Find good advisers before making any big decision. They can help you expand your alternatives and evaluate your choices.

PROVERBS 24:8

Plotting to do evil can be as wrong as doing it because what you think determines what you will do. Left unchecked, wrong desires will lead us to sin. God wants pure hearts, free from sin, and planning evil brings sinful thoughts into our mind. Should you say, "Then I might as well go ahead and do it because I've already planned it"? No. You have sinned in your attitude, but you have not yet harmed other people. Stop in your tracks and ask God to forgive you and put you on a different path.

(Verses 10-12) RESCUE THE PERISHING: If you do not help those unjustly sentenced, God will punish you.

¹⁰ If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength! ¹¹ Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. ¹² If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?

PROVERBS 24:10

Times of trouble can be useful. They can show you who you really are—what kind of character you have developed. In addition, they can help you grow stronger. When Jeremiah questioned God because of the trouble he faced, God asked how he ever expected to face big challenges if the little ones tired him out (Jeremiah 12:5). Don't complain about your problems. The trouble you face today is training you to be strong for the more difficult situations you will face in the future.

(Verses 13-14) LIKE HONEY TO THE SOUL (24:13-14): If you eat wisdom, you will have a bright future and your hopes will be fulfilled.

¹³ Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. ¹⁴ Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

(Verses 15-16) DOWN SEVEN TIMES (24:15-16): The godly are able to overcome misfortune.

¹⁵ Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place; ¹⁶ for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

(Verses 17-22) WHEN ENEMIES FALL: If you rejoice over the misfortune of the wicked, God will be displeased with you.

¹⁷ Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice, ¹⁸ or the LORD will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from them. ¹⁹ Do not fret because of evildoers or be envious of the wicked, ²⁰ for the evildoer has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out. ²¹ Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with rebellious officials, ²² for those two will send sudden destruction on them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?

PROVERBS 24:17, 18

David, Solomon's father, refused to gloat over the death of his lifelong enemy, Saul (see 2 Samuel 1). On the other hand, the nation of Edom rejoiced over Israel's defeat and was punished by God for their attitude (Obadiah 1:12). To gloat over others' misfortune is to make yourself the avenger and to put yourself in the place of God, who alone is the real Judge of all the earth (see Deuteronomy 32:35).

(Verses 23-27) PARTIALITY AND PREPARATION: Do not declare the guilty innocent or you will be denounced by the nations. Develop your business before building your house.

²³ These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good: ²⁴ Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent," will be cursed by peoples and denounced by nations. ²⁵ But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come on them. ²⁶ An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips. ²⁷ Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.

PROVERBS 24:26

People often think that they should bend the truth to avoid hurting a friend. But one who gives an honest, straightforward answer is a true friend.

PROVERBS 24:27

We should carry out our work in its proper order. If a farmer builds his house in the spring, he will miss the planting season and go a year without food. If a businessman invests his money in a house while his business is struggling to grow, he may lose both. It is possible to work hard and still lose everything if the timing is wrong or the resources to carry it out are not in place.

(Verses 28-29) RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL: Do not lie or testify spitefully against others.

²⁸ Do not testify against your neighbor without cause—would you use your lips to mislead? ²⁹ Do not say, "I'll do to them as they have done to me; I'll pay them back for what they did."

PROVERBS 24:29

Here is a reverse version of the Golden Rule (see Luke 6:31). Revenge is the way the world operates, but it is not God's way.

(Verses 30-34) LEARN FROM THE LAZY: Laziness will bring poverty.

**Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 25**

11/28/12

Wisdom instructs kings and their subjects on the fear of God and Righteousness

THEME: Wisdom For The Leaders (Chapters 25-31)

PURPOSE: Solomon wanted to impart wisdom to all people, regardless of their age, sex, or position in society. These short, wise sayings give us practical wisdom for daily living. We should study them diligently and integrate them into our life.

OUTLINE:

- I. THE SOURCE OF PROVERBS (25:1) : They were collected by Hezekiah's advisers.
- II. THE RIGHTS OF RULERS (25:2-7): Kings have the right to exalt people or to bring them down.
- III. BE SLOW TO SUE (25:8-10): Try to settle a dispute with your neighbor privately.
- IV. THE RIGHT USE OF WORDS (25:11-15): Words should be used to give good advice and build up, not to make promises that won't be kept.
- V. MODERATION IN ALL THINGS (25:16-17): Do not eat too much or you will be sick; do not visit too often or you will wear out your welcome.
- VI. DEALING WITH OTHERS (25:18-20): Do not do things that common sense tells you are not good for you or others, such as lying or shooting someone.
- VII. KILL HIM WITH KINDNESS (25:21-22): The Lord will reward you for giving your enemy food and drink.
- VIII. BETTER OFF ON A ROOF (25:23-24): It is better to live alone in an attic than with a contentious person or a gossip.
- IX. GOOD NEWS AND SELF-CONTROL (25:25-28): Good news is like cold water to the thirsty. A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

Proverbs 25
(New International Version)

(Verse 1) THE SOURCE OF PROVERBS: They were collected by Hezekiah's advisers.

These are more proverbs of Solomon, compiled by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:

PROVERBS 25:1

Hezekiah's story is told in 2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32; and Isaiah 36-39. He was one of the few kings of Judah who honored the Lord. By contrast, his father, Ahaz, actually nailed the Temple door shut. Hezekiah restored the Temple, destroyed idol worship centers, and earned the respect of surrounding nations, many of whom brought gifts to God because of him. It is not surprising that Hezekiah had these proverbs copied and read, for "in all that he did in the service of the Temple of God and in his efforts to follow the law and the commands, Hezekiah sought his God wholeheartedly. As a result, he was very successful" (2 Chronicles 31:21).

(Verse 2-7) THE RIGHTS OF RULERS: Kings have the right to exalt people or to bring them down.

² It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. ³ As the heavens are high and the earth is deep, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. ⁴ Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel; ⁵ remove wicked officials from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness. ⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among his great men; ⁷ it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

PROVERBS 25:6, 7

Jesus made this proverb into a parable (see Luke 14:7-11). We should not seek honor for ourselves. It is better to quietly and faithfully accomplish the work God has given us to do. As others notice the quality of our life, then they will draw attention to us.

(Verse 8-10) BE SLOW TO SUE: Try to settle a dispute with your neighbor privately.

What you have seen with your eyes ⁸ do not bring^[a] hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your neighbor puts you to shame? ⁹ If you take your neighbor to court, do not betray another's confidence, ¹⁰ or the one who hears it may shame you and the charge against you will stand.

(Verse 11-15) THE RIGHT USE OF WORDS: Words should be used to give good advice and build up, not to make promises that won't be kept.

¹¹ Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a ruling rightly given. ¹² Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is the rebuke of a wise judge to a listening ear. ¹³ Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him; he refreshes the spirit of his master. ¹⁴ Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given. ¹⁵ Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

PROVERBS 25:13

It is often difficult to find people you can really trust. A faithful employee ("messenger") is punctual, responsible, honest, and hardworking. This person is invaluable as he or she helps take some of the pressure off his or her employer. Find out what your employer needs from you to make his or her job easier, and do it.

PROVERBS 25:14

Most churches, missions organizations, and Christian groups depend on the gifts of people to keep their ministries going. But many who promise to give fail to follow through. The Bible is very clear about the effect this has on those involved in the ministry. If you make a pledge, keep your promise.

(Verse 16-17) MODERATION IN ALL THINGS: Do not eat too much or you will be sick; do not visit too often or you will wear out your welcome.

¹⁶ If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit. ¹⁷ Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house—too much of you, and they will hate you.

(Verse 18-20) DEALING WITH OTHERS: Do not do things that common sense tells you are not good for you or others, such as lying or shooting someone.

¹⁸ Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor. ¹⁹ Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble. ²⁰ Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

PROVERBS 25:18

Lying about someone is vicious. Its effects can be as permanent as those of a wound. The next time you are tempted to pass on a bit of gossip, imagine yourself wounding the victim of your remarks with a sword. This image may shock you into silence.

(Verse 21-22) KILL HIM WITH KINDNESS: The Lord will reward you for giving your enemy food and drink.

²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ²² In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

PROVERBS 25:21, 22

God's form of retaliation is most effective and yet difficult to do. Paul quotes this proverb in Romans 12:19-21. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus encourages us to pray for those who hurt us. By returning good for evil, we are acknowledging God as the balancer of all accounts and trusting him to be the judge.

(Verse 23-24) BETTER OFF ON A ROOF (25:23-24): It is better to live alone in an attic than with a contentious person or a gossip.

Like a north wind that brings unexpected rain is a sly tongue—which provokes a horrified look. ²⁴ Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

(Verse 25-28) GOOD NEWS AND SELF-CONTROL: Good news is like cold water to the thirsty. A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

²⁵ Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land. ²⁶ Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked. ²⁷ It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to search out matters that are too deep. ²⁸ Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

PROVERBS 25:27

Dwelling on the honors you deserve can only be harmful. It can make you bitter, discouraged, or angry, and it will not bring you the rewards that you think should be yours. Pining for what you should have received may make you miss the satisfaction of knowing you did your best.

PROVERBS 25:28

Even though city walls restricted the inhabitants' movements, people were happy to have them. Without walls, they would have been vulnerable to attack by any passing group of marauders. Self-control limits us, to be sure, but it is necessary. An out-of-control life is open to all sorts of attacks by the enemy. Think of self-control as a wall for defense and protection.