**Proverbs Sermon**

**Wisdom From Solomon (mostly)**

**Theme: What kind of life do you want to live?**

**Theme: Practical Christian Living Instructions for Godly living**

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon deals with the big questions of life. (Purpose, meaning, value, goal)

In Proverbs, he deals with the small questions of life. How should I live? How should I handle this situation? What should I say to this person?

These are smaller questions, but these small questions and how we answer them are what makes us who we are. Proverbs are important for our day-to-day life.

80% of this would apply to a non-believer equally to a believer.

Q: What kind of life do you want to live? What kind of person do you want to be?

Comments:

Proverbs style is mostly couplets.

a. Contrast The wages if the righteous is life, ***but*** the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.

b. Parallel Pride goes before destruction: A haughty spirit before a fall.

Virtually impossible to outline. Random and sometimes repetitive.

Areas covered by Solomon:

I. Wisdom, generally.

II. Self-Discipline.

III. Closely related: Laziness, Finances

IV Pride vs. Humility

V. Closely related: Taking advice from the wise.

VI. Relationships:

1. Peace-Making
2. The tongue
3. Wives
4. Relationships generally

VII The Poor

A request/assignment: Choose 5 memory passages and memorize them!

I. Wisdom, Generally

A. Fear of God Prov 1:7 The fear (deep, reverent respect) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Prov 14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

Prov 15:16 Better a little with the fear of the Lord, than great wealth with turmoil.

Q: Do you have a deep, reverential “fear” of God?

Not shaking in your boots, pee your pants fear (but if you were God’s enemy yes!)

God wants us to, at the same time, feel safe, secure, nurtured, believed in, but also in awe and reverent “fear” of the Holy God of Creation.

Q: Do you respect God? Do you “fear” him?

In Christianity, we need to have a balance between:

1. A “Go for it” attitude. With God I can do anything. God has my back. He is on my side. Let’s go out there and do great things for God” attitude, which comes from our sense of safety, nurturement, etc.

I am the son of a king!

After all John (1 John 4:18) said that “perfect love casts out fear.”

And David said (Psalm 18:29) “With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.”

And

2. A quiet sense of reverence, a fear of falling into sin. God also said, (Ps 46:10) Be still and know that I am God. and (Isaiah 6:3) Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Paul told us (Phil 2:13) to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling.” A sense of God’s holiness. Yes, God accepts me as his friend, but he is WAAAYYYY holier and more righteous than I am. I am puny—a dustspeck before the glorious, holy and just God.

Do we call God Daddy.

Or do we call God “Our Holy Father?”

Of the two, the first gives us the sense of safety to go for it, but the second one teaches us wisdom and knowledge of God.

For me, I am a little of both.

1. When Jose Meza prays “Daddy.” It bothers me. I do not feel like God is my daddy.

But… I need to work on my “fear” of God, even as an older disciple.

Q: Which produces wisdom: Fear/reverence or Faith/trust?

Answer: Fear produces wisdom!

What about you?

B. Heart

Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Prov 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

On the one hand, fear him.

On the other hand trust him. Give him your heart. Believe he loves you.

Don’t think you are so smart. Trust his wisdom, not yours.

Lean on Him, not yourself. He is the smart one.

(I am prideful and need to work on this)

C. Wisdom Prov 3:13 Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

Prov 4:7-8 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.

Prov 10:14 The wise store up knowledge but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.

Pay attention. God teaches us through the Bible, through advisers, through the Holy Spirit… But also through experiences.

Why did that happen? What caused that?

Be like a mini-scientist. Learn from victories and mistakes. Use your brain!!!

Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.

Prov 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Who do you know who is wise? (one younger person and one older person).

Watch them, ask them questions, hang out with them.

D. Wisdom in planning. Prov 14:12, 16:25 There is a way which seems right, but in the end it leads to death.

Prov 16:9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Prov16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

A wise person puts the things of God at the forefront of every decision, especially the big ones of life. A wise person always asks what God’s will is likely to be and seeks that path.

Moving: Why? Better job, better hours, better opportunity. What about the church?

Pursuing this degree at this university: Why? Better school, better program.

What about the campus ministry?

Illustration: Rte 95 in Conn. Bridge out.

James 4:13-17 Before any decision, ask yourself this: What would God say about the wisdom of this decision based on spiritual priorities?

II. Self-Discipline.

Prov 5:22-23 The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.

Prov 16:32 Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.

Prov 28:1 The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Book: The Disciplined Life

Do you want to do great things in this life? Work on your discipline.

A talk yesterday with a brother who is not having quiet times.

We are not talking about sin here, but about character.

I have been running almost 35 years. It takes discipline to write a book.

What discipline will you work on? Your weight? Your quiet times? Your reading habits? Your on-line activities?

This is not the key to salvation, but it is the key to a life well lived.

Prov 28:1 The disciplined/righteous are bold as a lion.

Q: Do you want to be bold? Talk is cheap. Work on your self-discipline. It bears fruit in every area of live.

That is what Solomon says!

III. Closely related: Laziness, Finances

Def: A sluggard is a “habitually lazy person.”

Prov 6:6-11 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in the summer and gathers its food at hearvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

Prov 10:4 Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Q: Are you a hard worker? Would your friends describe you this way? Might you be a sluggard.

Prov 12:11, Prov 28:19 Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense.

I am going to start a business.

I am going to take this program, this major…

Prov 14:23 All hard work brings profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Talk is cheap.

Prov 18:9 One who is slack in his work is brother to the one who destroys.

Prov 20:4 Sluggards do not plow in season; so at harvest time they look but find nothing.

I have no money! I have no car!

I had a paper route at 13 and a job at 15.

Prov 19:24 A sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Prov 24:33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

Prov 22:13 The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside! I’ll be killed in the public square.” Excuses!

Prov 26:13-16 A sluggard says, “There’s a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!” As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.

Summary: What kind of person do you want to be? Want wisdom?

Fear God

Trust God

Seek wisdom and pay attention

Ask what God’s will is likely to be on a decision

Walk with the wise

Live a self-disciplined life

Work hard

Finances

Prov 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.

IV Pride vs. Humility

Prov 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Prov 13:10 Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdomis found in those who take advice.

Prov 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Prov 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart—the unplowed field of the wicked—produces sin.

Prov 26:12 Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them.

Prov 27:21 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise.

V. Closely related: Taking advice from the wise.

Prov 9:6 Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.

Prov 10:17 Whoever heeds discipline shows the way of life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

Prov 11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

Prov 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

Prov 12:15 The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

Prov 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Prov 15:32 Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.

Prov 19:20 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Prov 24:6 Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.

Prov. 27:5-6 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Prov 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

VI. Relationships:

1. Peace-Making

Prov 12:16 Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook and insult.

Prov 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Prov 17:14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

Prov 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

1. The tongue

Prov 17:18 Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.

Prov 18:2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.

Prov 18:13 To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.

Prov 25:15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break bone.

Prov 29:20 Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.

Prov 29:22 An angry person stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered person commits many sins.

Prov 18:8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

Prov 20:19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.

Prov 26:18-19 Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of deat is one who deceives their neighbor and says, “I was only joking!”

1. Wives

Prov 19:13 A foolish child is a father’s ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like the constant dripping of a leaky roof.

Prov 21:29 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.

Prov 25:24 Better to live on a corner of the roof than to share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

1. Relationships generally

Prov 18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Prov 20:6 Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person, who can find?

Prov 18:17 In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.

Prov 20:5 The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but the one who has insight draws them out.

VII The Poor

Prov 14:31 Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Prov 28:27 Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.

Prov 29:7 The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

Prov 31:9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.