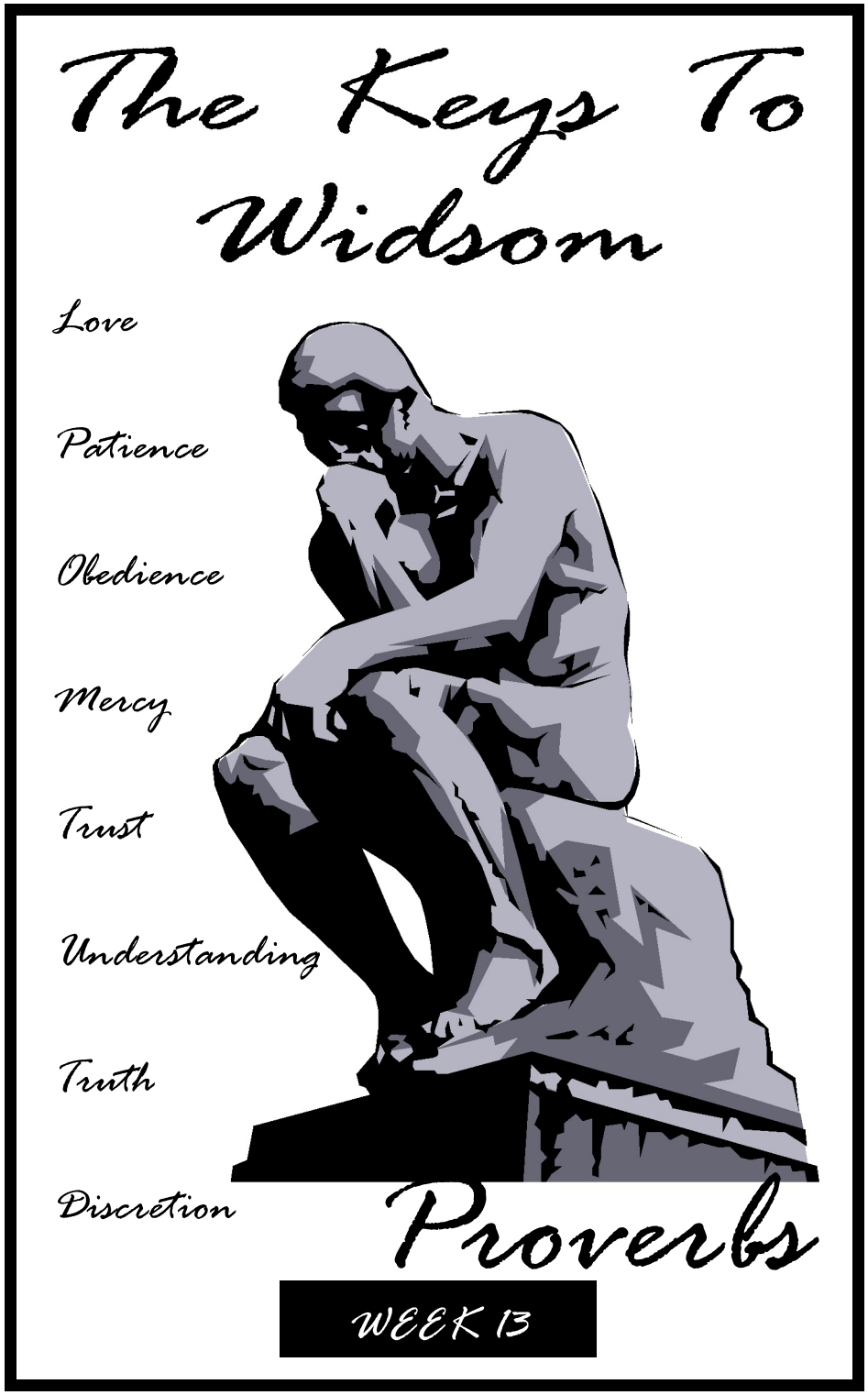

"Living in Peace and Wisdom"

Study: Proverbs 17:1-5
Reading: Romans 12:9-21, Philippians 1:1-11
Memory: Psalm 51:3

When my children were young we had a family cat for a few years. We lived in the church parsonage next door to the church, and the cat became aggressive and scrathed a few children at church. We needed to find a way to get rid of the cat and this became a source of contention between my wife and I. I never wanted a cat in the first place. My solutions were fairly simple, but quite hard-hearted. Her solutions were loving, but much less effective.

We finally gave the cat to her grandma, who lives five miles away, but the cat ran away after a day. Three weeks later, the cat showed up back at our house. Of course, my solution was not to give it any food or attention so it would go away, but my wife could not do that and after our source of contention had been gone for three weeks it was back in our lives. We both knew we couldn't keep the cat, but what I realized I needed to do was to be quiet and let her take care of removing the cat from our home the way she saw best. Though my ways would be much quicker and more efficient, I also realized that choosing to allow her to do it the way she saw best was the healthiest thing for our marriage.

Today, we are reminded about how important it is to practice wisdom in our lives to help bring about peace in our relationships.

What Does the Bible Say?

It is easy to think that if you had a little more money or a few nicer things that life would be better, but that is not often the case. In verse 1 we are told that it would be better to eat a dried out piece of food (often the food of a poor person) where there is peace than to enjoy a great feast where there is tension between those who are feasting. This reveals that when there is tension or fighting between people, no matter what outward items you have for enjoyment, it is still not fully enjoyable. The challenge for us is to choose to live in peace, even if that means going without something or having less (vs 1).

Wisdom is vitally important in life, no matter what position you are in.

Servants were often born into their position in life and would remain in that position in life with little chance of getting out. Yet, if a servant acted wisely, he could easily find himself under the favor of the master and would often be treated better than the sons if the sons chose to act in a foolish manner (vs 2).

Just as today, precious metals were refined in furnaces where the impurities would be removed which would result in beautiful gold and silver. It was understood that this beauty came after the original ore was found and purified. The same happens to the hearts of men who God uses for Himself. Difficulties and trials will come into the lives of believers to help purify them and make them into beautiful people who will bring great glory to Himself (vs 3).

One of the easiest ways to find yourself in sin and straying from God is when you choose to listen to the ungodly people who are in your life. When you follow the counsel of the world, whether it is from a close friend or the influence of the world's entertainment, you can easily find yourself yielding to temptations because your heart has been hardened and mind has been swayed by others (vs 4).

Those who make fun of those who are poor, are criticizing God for what He has done. In Bible times, when people were poor it was often because they were born into poverty with very little chance of getting out. It was not a mistake that they were born that way, and making fun of them was like making fun of God for choosing to do the wrong thing. God desires that we help the less fortunate instead (vs 5).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you seek for peace in your relationships, or do you sacrifice peace so that you can have your way or what you think is best? Many people live in constant strife because they are not willing to give up their desires to get along better with others. Little do they realize that the thing(s) they are fighting over is not worth the pain of the contention they are causing. Make sure you are willing to give in for the sake of peace, and you will be thankful when you experience the peace.

Are you living in wisdom when you deal with others around you? Do you live wisely at work so you are favored by your employer? Are you living wisely when it comes to the people who you choose to listen to and allow to influence your life? Take a look at these areas of wisdom and let God reveal things that are not right in your life.

What is better (vs 1)?

How have you seen this to be true?

What are ways that yu can avoid strife in your home?

Why do you think some people choose to live with strife instead of peace?

What will a wise servant have the ability to do (vs 2)?

What does this reveal about the great importance of wisdom?

How do you think this can apply to you in our society today?

What is God's testing compared with in verse 3?

Why is it important to realize that God brings trials into your life?

Why do you think many people turn from following God when difficult times come their way?

What do you think God desires for your life?

What will listening to the wrong influences in your life lead to (vs 4)?

What are sources of evil that you can easily allow into your life?

Take a moment to evaluate the things you listened to, watched or scrolled through this last week. Describe how these things could be helpful or hurtful to you.

Why would a persn mock someone who is poor (vs 5)?

What are you doing when you make fun of a poor person?

How can you be tempted to be glad when others face problems (vs 5)?

How should you respond when others face calamity?

"Investing Honesty with Love"

Study: Proverbs 17:6-9
Reading: Matthew 18:15-20, II Corinthians 2:5-11
Memory: Psalm 51:3

One of the saddest things for me to see is when parents display a lack of love for their children. Sure, they say they love their kids, and try to provide for their physical needs, but I have seen man how parents fail to provide the inner needs of their children. Why? Because their parents are busy with their own things. Yes, they run their children all over the county to be a part of sports teams and social clubs, but while they are doing that, they fail to connect with the deepest desires and needs of their children. Many children grow up having many physical things, but lack the thing they desire most — the true love and self-sacrifice from their parents.

Today, we are going to look at four different principles, with the first being the importance of investing your life into future generations.

What Does the Bible Say?

Family should be a very special thing in the lives of those who are believers. One of the thrills in life that many people rejoice in is their grandchildren. The fact that a person had grandchildren in those days was evidence that they had lived a godly, long life because they were able to live long enough to see their grandchildren. The last half of verse 6 also talks about how parents should be the glory of their children. Children have a great love for their parents, and children love to have parents who are full of love, security and protection. The challenge from this is to be a parent who invests your life into your children by living for God and loving your children deeply. The end result will often be grandchildren who are a great joy because the initial love of the parent was passed down to the next generations (vs 6).

Just as a fool does not speak with wisdom and integrity, a prince (or a leader) is foolish when he speaks dishonestly. The lesson here is focused on the leader and the need for honesty in the way that he treats his followers (vs 7).

When people want their way, they often resort to bribery and think they

can get whatever they want through paying someone off. They view it like a lucky charm or magic stone that allows them to get their desires. They think that their bribes will cause them to get ahead, but in reality, bribes will ultimately cause trouble and bring many problems (vs 8).

Though sin needs to be confronted and dealt with, it also needs to be done privately and carefully. The New Testament describes how a person needs to be confronted by only one person and then a few more if they don't listen. The only reason given for making it public is the ultimate end after a long process of church discipline. In most cases, those who sin realize their mistake an repent. When they do, if you know about it, you should keep it to yourself and choose to protect the repentant sinner rather than publicize what they have done. Sadly, the news of a person's sin often travels very fast in Christian circles. True love chooses to cover sin and protect others who have sinned rather than revealing it (vs 9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

When you parent or grandparent, do you do it purposely? Do you do it with a desire to pass down love and truth to the next generation or are you only concerned with getting by and having good kids who don't get into a lot of trouble and don't interfere with what you are doing? This does not mean that you give every ounce of energy you have to your children, but in our society children are often given so much physically, while they are given little of what they really need.

As you lead, are you being an honest leader? Do people know they can trust you and count on what you say? Do you try to persuade others dishonestly or give them bribes so you can get what you want?

Are you a person who covers sin, or do you find a certain enjoyment in telling other people's faults? Sadly, it is very easy t enjoy spreading bad news at times, but you must be careful that you choose the way of love rather than the way of gossip. Choose to be wise and keep private matters private.

Thought for the day

_____

_____

_____ .

What are grandchildren compare to (vs 6)?

What do you think this meant?

How do children often view their parents?

Why is it important as a parent to live the way God desires you to live?

What does the Bible teach about the great importance of family?

What is not part of the speach of a fool (vs 7)?

What should not be part of the vocabulary of a prince (vs 7)?

What do you think verse 7 is trying to teach you about your speach?

Take a moment to think about the things you have said this week. According to this verse, would you be described as a fool or a prince?

What does verse 8 compare a bribe to?

Why do you think it is compared to this?

Do you think this verse is supporting bribery or presenting it in a negative light?

****In the Old Testament, God described who he hated witchcraft and anything that dealt with the occult. By comparing a bribe to a magic stone, the is verse is presenting a bribe in a negative light. It is placing your hope in something that is evil and wrong. Many people think they can always get thier way by offering a bribe, but bribes will lead to problems rather than continued success.*

What do you think it means to cover an offense (vs 9)?

How is it loving to cover an offense (vs 9)?

Does this mean that you should cover up criminal acts? Explain.

"Rebuke & Justice"

Study: Proverbs 17:10-15
Reading: Micah 6:1-8, I Thessalonians 5:11-22
Memory: Psalm 51:3

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the marks of a wise man is that he is able to be corrected when he is wrong. Though no one likes to be rebuked, the wise man understands how important rebuke is and listens to it. Though correction isn't always 100% accurate, when someone is reaching out to help correct you, there is normally a great deal of truth being offered, no matter how hard it is to hear. The wise man listens and takes time listen, evaluated to make the changes needed in his life. A fool could be physically beat several times and might not learn from his mistake, while at the same time the wise man takes one small rebuke and makes significant changes (vs 10).

The person who is full of rebellion and chooses not to listen to his authorities will face the punishment for his rebellion. Just as he treats others cruelly, that same cruelty will come back upon him (vs 11).

Meeting a bear who had her cubs taken away from her often meant severe injury or death. Mother bears are very protective of their cubs and will go to great extent to keep their cubs from harm. This is what Solomon compared the consequences of foolishness to (vs 12).

When someone is shows kindness to you and does good things for you, the natural response should be to show kindness in return. Yet, there are times where people choose to return evil for the kindness that was showed to them. The consequences for this will not be good because that person will constantly face problems. A prime example of this would be the way a child treats his parents meanly after they have sacrificed and showed great love for that child (vs 13).

Water was a very valuable resource in those days and they didn'thave access to faucets to just refill containers. Having water leak from a barrel could turn into a big problem. When a leak happened, the best thing to do was to stop the leak. Once water was let out and spread all over the ground, there was no way to gather it back into the barrel. The same thing happens when you don't control your tongue and emotions. Once it

escapes from your mouth or your actions, it can't be undone. The challenge this verse is presenting is to control your anger and stop your tongue before you say or do something you will regret (vs 14).

Justice was something that God desired among his people, but was something that did not happen as often as it should have. The societies in those days did not have all the checks and balances that we do in our society today, though injustice still take place today. When a person who is guilty is declared innocent and when innocent people are declared guilty it is a great abomination to the Lord (vs 15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you handle it when someone corrects you for something you have done wrong or something they have noticed in your life that could be improved? Though many times, people will not rebuke in the most loving and caring way, if you are a person of wisdom, you will see the importance of listening to that rebuke and making changes in your life that need to be made. Though this is never easy, the wise person understands that he has many flaws in his life that others can see better than he can. Listening to rebuke will help make you wiser, but when you reject it you are revealing that you are a fool.

Are you allowing any anger or bitterness to dwell in your life? Do you tend to respond negatively to other people or do you consistently respond in kindness. It is very easy to respond negatively and start that leak in the damn which will eventually lead to a full blowout and often greatly harm or destroy relationships. Instead, you need to keep your mouth shut and choose to love others as Christ chose to love you. Though this is not easy, you will be truly thankful when you do.

Do you consistently treat others fairly and justly? Do you promote justice in your life or do you tend to show favoritism? You probably don't realize how easy it is to show injustice or favoritism to others, but you probably have experienced what it feels like to be on the other end of injustice which no one likes.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for being a God of justice.*
* *Ask God to help you open your heart and mind to rebuke.*
* *Praise God because He knows what is best for man.*

What will a rebuke do for a person of understanding (vs 10)?

What will not often get through to a fool (vs 10)?

According to this verse, would you consider yourself to be a person of understanding or a fool? Explain your answer.

Why is it not always easy to take rebuke?

What can you do to make your heart open to the rebuke of others?

What does an evil man seek (vs 11)?

What do you think rebellion could look like in your life?

What is often the end result of rebellion (vs 11)?

What do you think meeting a "fool in his folly" looks like (vs 12)?

What would be better than meeting a fool who is living foolishly?

What do you think this verse is teaching?

How can you apply this verse to your daily life?

What happens when you return good with evil (vs 13)?

What are ways that you may be tempted to do this?

What is the beginning of strife compared to (vs 14)?

What happens to the water when a barrel breaks?

What is this verse teaching about strife and quarrels?

What happens when we justify the wicked (vs 15)?

How do you think you can be tempted to do this?

"Growing in Wisdom"

Study: Proverbs 17:!6-20
Reading: Proverbs 6:1-5, 11:!5, 20:16, 27:13
Memory: Psalm 51:3

When I was about to head off to college, my dad had a co-worker who was selling a nice car that was being sold for much less than it was worth. My dad encouraged me to buy it, but I didn't have the cash to purchase it so he took me to the bank and co-signed on the loan for the car with me. I did pretty good at paying my payment and insurance on the car for a few months into college, but then I ran out of money. I couldn't get much of a job while in college because of the location of our college so I was pretty much stuck. Fortunately, my mom and dad kept making payments on the car and they finally sold it for me after my freshman year. That was the only time in my life I took a loan our for a vehicle and I decided to never do it again.

Today, one of the principles we are going to see how the Bible warns against co-signing. Why? Because the co-signer, just like my dad, will often end up paying for the loan and take on another's debt.

What Does the Bible Say?

Wisdom is one of the most important things to have in this life, yet many people fail to have it. Wisdom does not come naturally and is not gained by money or financial success. No matter how much a person may pay for an education, if they lack sense, they will not benefit. Many people believe that education is the answer to everything, but education without a person's desire to learn will not make a difference (vs 16).

Different thoughts and various interpretations have been given about verse 17, but it appears that the verse is exalting the importance of friendship and family. I don't believe this verse is contrasting family and freinds, but encouraging you to stay close with friends and family. When you have good relationships with your friends and family, they will be there when you need help. The challenge is not to isolate yourself, but do the work needed to maintain good relationships in your life (vs 17).

There are several places in Proverbs where the idea of co-signing is looked down upon, specifically when it comes to co-signing for someone

else. When you choose to be responsible for another persons debt if they fail to pay, you are setting yourself up to have to pay that debt for that person. There is a reason why banks ask for co-signers and if the bank doesn't trust another person with their money, then you need to be cautious about trusting that person as well. Co-signing is not a sin, but unless you are willing to loose your money for another, it is best not to enter into an agreement to pay another persons debt. A better way would be to encourage a person who is seeking a co-signer to save up the money for their purchase (vs 18).

The person who loves to argue and fight is a person who loves sin. Conflicts are not part of God's desire for unity and peace among His people. These conflicts come from a prideful heart and those who make their "door high" are people who attempt to draw attention to themselves which is often the source of pride and conflicts (vs 19).

A man of wisdom will be a man who is pure in heart. The opposite of this is a man who is crooked and dishonest in his dealings with others. God desires complete honesty and for His followers to treat others fairly in all of their dealings. Those who are pure and honest will be displaying the character of God to the world around them (vs 20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How are you seeking to obtain wisdom? Are you disciplining yourself to spend time with God on a regular basis learning about Him and growing in Him, or is you time with God on a hit and miss basis? Spending time with God is not some legalistic requirement or a set amount of time, but it does take time and discipline if you want to grow in wisdom.

What are you doing to cultivate godly friendships? You need friends, sometimes more than others, but in our society today, it is easy to isolate yourself with all the perks of personal entertainment, rather than experience the love and self-sacrifice that is a part of intimate friendships.

Are you dealing wisely with your money? Are you guaranteeing another person's loan? Though this is not prohibited, it must be entered very cautiously with the understanding that you might have to pay for another's mistakes and wrong choices.

Is honesty and integrity a major part of your life? Do others consider you an honest person? One of the marks of a wise person is that he acts with integrity in all that he does. When you act with integrity, it gains the respect and trust of others around you.

What can not be bought (vs 16)?

Why do you think that many people think that more education is the answer to many problems in our society today?

What is the problem with this thinking?

How can you be a person who highly benefits from education?

Why is having friends important in your life (vs 17)?

What happens when you tend to isolate yourself?

How does this society make it easy to live an isolated life?

What is it important to stay close with your family (vs 17)?

Why is it difficult at times to maintain a good relationship with some of your family members?

How is a person who co-signs described (vs 18)?

Why do you think the person is described this way?

What are other ways you could be tempted to give a pledge for another person?

What will transgression lead to (vs 19)?

How have you seen this true?

What do you think the end of verse 19 means?

****Putting a door high could be a reference to pride and self exaltation. It is trusting in one's self more than trusting in God.*

Who will not experience good (vs 20)? What is this verse emphasizing?

"Seeking Honesty & Wisdom"

Study: Proverbs 17:21-24
Reading: Psalm 111:1-10, Colossians 3:1-17
Memory: Psalm 51:3

There are times where my wife and I have both said, "The more I talk to people, the less I want to talk to people." We are not anti-social by any means, but it is easy to be frustrated if we find ourselves having to listen to the selfish complaints of others. Listening to others who are hurting and grieving is not too difficult since that hurt is often brought about by sudden and tragic difficulties, but listening to people who really do have it good, yet complain abou it is much more difficult. Having to hear people complain and listen to their discouragements because of their selfishness often becomes difficult to bear because those who are complaining are choosing to live in their misery when they don't have to.

Today, we are going to see that walking in wisdom can be a great encouragement to those around you, but living with a self-focus you become a burden to others.

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the greatest desires of most parents is to see their children turn out to be people of wisdom. Sadly, some parents are disappointed with the choices of their children because they see the many foolish decisions their children make. Verse 21 is speaking to children (young and old) challenging all of us to be wise children and not fools. One of the greatest gifts that you can give to your parents is to walk in wisdom and integrity (vs 21).

If you desire to be a help to others around you, you can do this by living with a positive attitude. By having a positive attitude, you have the ability to be a great encouragement to those around you, but living in discouragement and being full of complaints will have a negative affect on those around you. This is not describing how we should put on a false front, but challenging us to seek joy and live it out in our lives. When we do, our lives will be much more enjoyable and we will make others around us enjoy life as well (vs 22).

Bribes are talked about negatively several places in the book of Proverbs

because they stand in the way of justice being done. Though you may not think that this could happen to you, bribes take place on a regular basis all around you. Children attempt to bribe their parents while parents often attempt to bribe their children. Co-workers, teachers, coaches and many other positions in life open themselves up to bribery that is often done withou money, but is very real. Think about ways that bribery could happen to you and choose to avoid those actions in your life (vs 23).

The direction you are facing in life will often produce the outcome you desire or don't desire. What do I mean by that? I am not describing a physical direction, but the desires you have in life. When you desire the things of this world and allow your life to focus in on all this world has to offer, you will find yourself far from wisdom and far from God. This is very easy to do and can be done without even realizing that you are doing it. Instead of focusing on this world, you need to set your gaze on wisdom and make the gaining of wisdom a primary desire in your life. Since we know that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10), then we understand that when we seek the Lord and set our focus on Him we will have the wisdom we seek (vs 24).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you being an encouragement to your parents by seeking after wisdom? Are you a joy for others to be around or do you pull others down when they are around you? The person who is focused on himself will often be a downer to others because nothing ever goes exactly the way it is planned. There will always be something negative and you can choose to focus on what is negative or choose to focus on the things that are positive in your life. . One of the best ways not avoid negativity is to be a person who is focused on God and eternal values. This doesn't mean you can't have a few bad days here and there, but take time today to examine your life to see if you pull others down or if you bring joy to the lives of others.

Are your eyes focused on God and gaining wisdom, or have you found yourself enthralled with the things of this world? It is much easier than you realize to have your attention drawn from God to the things around you and you need to be on constant guard against this.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for those who encourage you.*

What happens to parents when their children make foolish choices (vs 21)?

What does a father not have when his child is a fool (vs 21)?

Why do you think parents are disheartened when their children make foolish decisions?

Do you choices and actions bring joy to your parents? (If you are parents are not living, how do you think they would view your life?)

What do you think you can do to bring joy to your parents?

What is good medicine (vs 22)?

How can you have a joyful heart?

Why is this not always easy?

What does a negative person do (vs 22)?

How hf you seen this to be true?

What can you do to avoid becoming a person who saps the strength out of other people?

What do wicked people do (vs 23)?

What do bribes do (vs 23)?

What are ways that you could be tempted to take a bribe?

What does a discerning person do (vs 24)?

What does a fool find his eyes drawn towards (vs 24)?

Think if your daily lives and daily actions. Do these show that you are seeking after wisdom or do you find your eyes set on things of the world? Describe what your actions show.

"Wisdom Affects Others"

Study: Proverbs 17:25-28
Reading: Ephesians 5:1-20, I Thessalonians 5:11-15
Memory: Psalm 51:3

One of the greatest problems in our society today is the epidemic of divorce. It is everywhere and is even prevelant in a the chruch. One of the greatest lies I have heard about divorce is from those who are getting divorced as they say, "It won't affect others." They think that it won't really make a difference in their children's life, but they are sadly mistaken. The actions of parents have a profound effect on thier children. The idea that your actions make a difference for good or bad in the lives of others is prevalent throughout proverbs. Your actions affect your parents, your children, other family members and all the people you come in contact with in life.

Today, we are going to look at some of the marks of wisdom including how the wise person will be a blessing to his or her parents.

What Does the Bible Say?

Fathers and mothers know the heartbreak that can be caused by children and don't need to be told how difficult it is to have a child that acts as a fool. The depth of pain in a parents heart goes deep and most children, specifically grown children, don't realize how greatly they their parents. This verse is really challenging all those who are children (which is everyone) to live in a way that is wise. It is attempting to open our eyes to the fact that your decisions, good or bad, have an impact on more people than just you. One of the best ways you can honor your parents is to live a life of wisdom (vs 25).

Making a person who has done nothing wrong pay a penalty is completely against God's desire for His people. When a person is punished, though they have done nothing wrong, it is a stench in the nostrils of God because God is a God of great fairness and justice. He wants you to deal with problems when problems occur, but He also wants you to make sure you know the facts to avoid causing an innocent person to suffer for something they didn't do (vs 26).

One of the great signs of wisdom does not come from the words that you

say, but often reveals itself in the things that you choose not to say. When you choose to keep your mouth shut and avoid conflict or saying something negative, you are showing great wisdom because those words could have extremely harmful consequences. This, along with showing a calm spirit when someone is angry at you or when someone does something to bother you is very difficult, but needs to be done in your life as you grow in wisdom. Conflicts are always two sided and if you respond to an angry person in calmness and love, that conflict will not last. Though you can't control the emotions of another person, you have great power to calm them down by being quiet and responding with love (vs 27).

The point of verse 27 is emphasized in a greater way in verse 28 as we see that people who are fools are looked to as wise people if they know how to keep their mouths shut at the proper time. If a fool is looked at as being intelligent and wise, how much more respect and honor will a wise man gain when he chooses to answer with wisdom and respond in calmness (vs 28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that your choices impact far more than you? Most people do not realize this when they choose things that are unwise because they are only thinking of themselves. One of the best ways that you can avoid making foolish decisions is to think about how your choices will affect those you love the most. When you have thought through this, you will often make the wisest choice.

Do you treat others fairly, or do you find yourself jumping to conclusions? It is easy to act and cast judgement without knowing all of the facts. It is important that you know both sides of an issue before you make a statement or judgment about something.

Do you get yourself in trouble with the way that you use your tongue? Do you find yourself responding in sharp words when someone says something hurtful to you or do you choose to keep quiet choosing your words wisely. This if often one of the greatest things that helps reveal the difference between a wise man and a fool. By choosing to keep your mouth shut, you can gain great respect from others and you will be growing in wisdom.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you become a person of wisdom.*

What does a foolish son become to his father (vs 25)?

How do you think the actions of a foolish son grieve a father?

What does a foolish son become to his mother (vs 25)?

How do you think a mother will experience bitterness when her child makes foolish choices?

What is not good (vs 26)?

How do you think a righteou person can be fined?

Who should not be punished (vs 26)?

How can you avoid condemning or punishing a person who has not done any wrong?

How have you been accused or punished even when you did the right thing?

What was the result of that unjust punishment?

What often displays knowledge (vs 27)?

What do you think this means in light of the context of the verse?

How is a man of understanding described (vs 27)?

Why is it difficult to stay calm and cool at times?

What can you do to guard your mouth from saying things it shouldn't?

What can you do to guard your actions so you keep your cool in tense situations?

What does verse 28 reveal about keeping silent?

Why is keeping silent often better than talking?

MEMORY VERSES

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.