

## ] Whoso Loveth Instruction [

*Proverbs 11:26 – 12:22*

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~ When the school bell rang at the Academy of Wisdom of God's University in our last report from our Spiritual Safari, we hadn't quite completed a very important senior year lecture of Biblical business and Scriptural economics; so, we're going to just pick up in this report where we left off. Honesty is the best policy for the child of God; and it is critical to learn how to suppress our pride of life and deal with others fairly and equitably as we interact with them. The Bible has more to say about the lying tongue than it does about drunkenness, adultery and murder combined, friends. Yet, the lying tongue and the gossip go completely unrebuked in the church – and in the marketplace; whereas, almost all of us would banish the drunken adulterer or killer from our fellowship or business. That's a real problem, my beloved.

These Proverbs contain the supernatural revelation of principles that must govern our lives if we call ourselves Christians. In our last report, we saw honesty and integrity must be the top two priorities for doing business as believers. When one or both of those are absent, no system of economics can restore a life of righteousness. Truth must be given out in all of its glory – and, sometimes, in all of its raw and hurtful ugliness. Propaganda corrupts all societies – including Christian circles – and that's when nations and strongholds fall. The use of wealth – including wealth of knowledge and understanding — is the real test of a man's life; and the character of the man who ministers will be the defining reality of any economic system – be it spiritual or material. Well, this report from our Spiritual Safari is going to be quite strong on the honest truth....

## XI

***26 He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.***

~ We have been examining how these proverbs relate to individual Biblical characters, and I think of several in connection to verse twenty-six. I can picture Joseph down in Egypt after his release from prison for a crime he didn't commit; he didn't withhold the corn from the people. Remember, he had gathered it for seven years during the times of plenty and, as a result, he was able to feed the entire known world, including his own father, Jacob, and his eleven brothers and their families. I also think of Nabal the fool who was married to that wonderful woman, Abigail – who ended up becoming King David's first wife – and I always wondered why she had married Nabal. Perhaps it was because he was a rich man. Well, either way, David and his men had taken care of Nabal's sheep while David was on the run from the murderous King Saul; and David had helped Nabal on many other occasions, too. However, when David and his men had no food and became desperately hungry, Nabal turned down David's food request flat. In fact, Nabal insulted the messengers David had sent to him asking for help. Well, that was a huge mistake, to be sure; and if Nabal hadn't died from his drunken stupor, he would have died by the sword of David that same day.

This section of Scripture is very practical, friends. Corn, in the Bible, speaks of the Word of God. Those who withhold it are going to be cursed by the people. May God have mercy on the preacher or pastor who incessantly speaks of the social questions of the day, but never profess sound doctrine. Social issues are certainly important but, as Christians, we're to give out the Word of God, my friends – period. I see so many self-professing believers who sit on the sidelines and either withhold corn altogether, or dish it out in the most sloppy and reckless way – to the point where it doesn't mean anything and doesn't nourish anyone. Some of you could be an irreplaceable impetus and a priceless help to others in getting the entire Word of God out to the entire world in sound doctrine; but most people literally don't do anything of any kind at any time for anyone.

Now, I realize that people in religious circles like to post a disconnected Bible verse or a fractured passage of Scripture here and there and say to themselves, “.... *what a good boy am I*” – but – people don't read the Bible to begin with; and they sure don't read it like that. Moreover, the inability to come back and explain those verses in a cohesive theology is almost non-

existent. That's not helpful; that's withholding corn. It's as shameful as posting pictures of your dinner for starving children all over the world to see. Those people curse you, my friends – make no mistake about that. This little rinky-dink so-called safari is just trying to sell the Word of God – without price, of course. Whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap. You might want to write that down. Say, this is a little personal, isn't it? This is a tremendous proverb, and I think we should probably just move along now, because we could spend a lot of time here....

***27 He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.***

***28 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.***

***29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.***

***30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.***

~ I wish I could stamp out the insincere and utterly useless surface coat of knowledge that passes as understanding espoused through meaningless courses on how to witness to and lead people — and all that nonsense — and bring them all to a sincere, educated, systematic, proper, correct and complete study of the Bible; so that people would realize how some psychological tricks that teach one how to be sweet and nice to everyone is not the answer to our problems, or theirs. No, the answer is the Word of God, and to live a life that allows the Spirit of God to speak through us, move within us, and have His life in ours. When and if that is done, it is amazing how fast myriad problems miraculously evaporate into thin air. When it is done, the fruit is righteousness and comes from the tree of life. That's the way it works out, friends. There is a whole lot of attention given today to personal witnessing — and that's certainly great and wonderful — but if it is not consistent with and directly related to the Lord Jesus Christ according to Scripture, then it is nothing except witchcraft. Judgment is

coming sooner and faster than they think it is. Again, this is very personal – so, let's move on....

***31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.***

## **XII**

***1 Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is stupid.***

~ The man or woman who loves true instruction from the Word of God has their priorities lined up correctly; and they understand what is of superior value and that which is worthless. That person will recognize, listen to and follow sound doctrine. It's not so much of a problem getting people to listen to the Word of God – but getting them to act on it and obey the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ is altogether different. Well, obedience is absolutely essential in the life of anyone who considers themselves a Christian. Jesus gave a parable in the Sermon on the Mount about two men who built a house; one built on a rock and the other built it on sand. The Rock, of course, is Christ; and His is the solid Foundation of the Word of God. The ungodly will not stand in their Judgment Day — and sinners cannot stand in the congregation of the righteous! I don't care who you are, you're racing towards a sad and sorry end at the speed of light without wisdom, understanding and discernment in the Word of God. You may be famous, rich and well-loved by everyone you know, but God is going to strip it all away in a nanosecond if you do not know, love, trust and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. These proverbs are very important to realize....

***2 A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.***

***3 A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.***

***4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.***

~ “Virtuous” means more than “pure.” It does mean “pure” it also encompasses a woman of character and Godly energetic ability. Eve was a wonderful woman and wife; although she made a very poor choice in life. Sarah was a virtuous wife to Abraham; although she certainly made a bad decision with Hagar, which resulted in Ishmael. Jochebed, Moses’ mother, must have been a very lovely woman, to be sure. However, there was Job’s wife – and Ms. Job was the only thing Satan didn’t kill or destroy in Job’s life; and the reason for that is because she said to Job, “.... *curse God and die.*” Well, anyone who is willing to do the devil’s bidding for them is not a good person to have in your life, friends. Also, there was the stunningly beautiful, but horrendously evil, Jezebel – Ahab’s wife. She brought curses on old man Ahab with that business of Naboth’s vineyard. Also, there was the bloody Athaliah – the daughter of Jezebel – and she was no better than her momma.

Remember, the Book of Proverbs is primarily a lesson for the young man; and one of the most important choices a man makes is choosing a wife. The woman who engages in sex outside of marriage is a prostitute; not necessarily for money or hire — although that’s usually part of it in some fashion — but a prostitute just the same. The man who engages in sex outside of marriage is a rapist – every time. Neither of them are going to make good spouses. There are plenty of examples of very bad women in Scripture. To ensure marriages last, a seminar on telling her you love her every day won’t work. Couples leave that weekend seminar, and, within six months, they don’t remember anything they were told. See, the problem is that they do not live in and by the Word of God to begin with. If they did live by the Word of God, they wouldn’t need those things to begin with! A class of religious philosophy isn’t going to straighten out a home with a wicked husband or an unfaithful wife. Someone has said, “.... *to keep your marriage in love, whenever you’re wrong, admit it; and whenever you’re right – shut up.*” Okay, there is a whole bunch of things we could say about this, too — but I think it’s best if we move on again....

***5 The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.***

***6 The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.***

***7 The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.***

***8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.***

***9 He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.***

~ Apparently, God is “old-fashioned” and demands law and order. I think of Gideon, who was commended according to his valor; and I see his son, Abimelech, despised because of a perverted heart! Frankly, verse nine is difficult to understand. I think it could be better translated as “....he that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than the poor that provides for himself, but has nothing.” I think the contrast is that it is better to be envious secretly rather than one who delights in making a pompous display of an empty breadbasket. How many poor people do you know who incessantly try to appear as being very rich? Well, I know quite a few of them, frankly – and they are very foolish for doing so....

***10 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.***

***11 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.***

***12 The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.***

***13 The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.***

***14 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.***

~ So, this leg of our Spiritual Safari ends with many proverbs of contrast. This section of Scripture certainly becomes repetitious. Today, many people feel like there shouldn't be any repetition in teaching; but there's just no better method of teaching than repetition – if you can get away with it. These safari reports from Proverbs have been very repetitious; and I'm not sure I am getting away with it – but – since I am not the teacher here — the Holy Spirit is our Teacher — I'll just leave the classroom techniques to Him. I'll simply sit back and audit the content as He leads me to; repetitiously, of course, line upon line, precept upon precept. Remember, Solomon's own son, Rehoboam, to whom this was written, apparently, wouldn't listen to wise council. As a result, the kingdom of Israel was divided during his reign.

I recognize that my dealings and interactions with most people doesn't result in winning friends and influencing people. But, if your preacher is preaching the truth, he's going to hurt sometimes. I understand I am, well, I downright ugly sometimes. I don't want to be ugly, but I am ugly sometimes. See, friends, spiritual cancer cannot be treated by sticking a Band-Aid on the sore spot and kissing the boo-boo; it requires radical surgery. That just happens to be my specialty. That's my calling from God in my life. Sometimes, I take my scalpel, and cut the bad stuff away until there is more biological waste than there is what is left of you! I make no apologies for that. There isn't a single one of you who could bring me up on a malpractice charge. The lying tongue of a hypocrite always covers up by being hateful, resentful, bitter — and by feigning concern for me. It's laughable, friends. I intend to exposit the Word of God with the lips of truth as the Holy Spirit has revealed it to me; and the chips are just going to have to fall where they may....

***15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.***

***16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.***

***17 He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.***

***18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.***

***19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.***

***20 Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace is joy.***

***21 There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.***

***22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight ~***

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