

## **Proverbs 25, Dec 23, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study**

### **Review:**

One last thing from Prov 23:22 “Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.” Call or visit your mother regularly along with listening to your dad. Honor them both. Once a week (Sunday) is good practice if you're not already seeing them. If you are, make sure you ask good questions. Ask about the past. Ask about their continuing growth in the faith. Be a good son. Show interest and affection to your parents. Honor them in this way.

This doesn't mean that you agree with them on everything or that you always follow their path. It does mean that you treat them with respect and make effort to be amenable to them when you can. Don't permanently divorce your parents at a minimum even if they are completely ungodly and reprobate.

### **Overview:**

Chapter 24 had 18 commands: twelve negative and six positives.

Chapter 25 only has 8 commands: split in half, four positive and four negatives.

While most of the book of Proverbs probably comes from Solomon, there are other sources which we will see in 30:1ff. What follows is a somewhat more organized grouping of topics compared to the rest of the book. The organization and use of comparison highlight the editorial nature of this section done by Hezekiah's men. Most people divide Proverbs at this point into another section that goes through to the end of chapter 29.

Over 200 years have passed since Solomon reigned.

Hezekiah, you will remember, was one of the few good kings of Judah.

Hezekiah's story is told in [2 Kings 16:20—20:21](#); [2 Chronicles 28:27—32:33](#); and [Isaiah 36:1—39:8](#). He is also mentioned in [Proverbs 25:1](#); [Isaiah 1:1](#); [Jeremiah 15:4](#); [26:18–19](#); [Hosea 1:1](#); and [Micah 1:1](#).

Hezekiah, a son of the wicked King Ahaz, reigned over the southern kingdom of

Judah for twenty-nine years, from c. 715 to 686 BC. He began his reign at age 25 ([2 Kings 18:2](#)). He was more zealous for the Lord than any of his predecessors ([2 Kings 18:5](#)). During his reign, the prophets [Isaiah](#) and [Micah](#) ministered in Judah.<sup>1</sup>

### **Commentary:**

Introduction v1: Proverbs of Solomon -see above.

### **Behavior in front of the King or kingly behavior (2-7)**

Be kingly (“search out a matter”) v2. Be thorough.

Be a deep thinker (v3). Don’t be a simpleton or dull. Be advanced in your thinking.

Be discerning about people and exercise sound judgement (v4-5)

Be humble (v6-7 & 27b)

V8-10 are about being sly or savvy. Correct perception. Sound understanding. Don’t be a game player but know that a game is being played. This is about having good judgement.

V15 Be **slow to anger and skillful in speech**. See also Prov 15:1 “A soft word turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Control your tongue and your attitude. Control your feelings. No one makes you feel anything. You are in control of you and you are responsible for your responses. You are not a slave to your emotions or inclinations. The Christian man exercise restraint and is calm in the midst of storms. He is seldom vexed. He is ever in control and seems Stoic but is actually trusting the LORD and fearing Him.

Concerning speech the chapter gives two other observations: “Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.” V11. “Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reproof to a listening ear.” V12. Be both, a giver of good reproof and a listener to it when it is directed towards us.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Hezekiah.html>

**Moderation:** v16a & 27

Being a glutton and drunkard is prohibited. BTW, it's not alcoholism. That is a victim term. The Biblical category is drunkard, not alcoholic. Don't be a glutton or a drunkard. Exercise discipline. Pray for the work of the Spirit and learn to tell yourself no. Have limits and stick to them. Have a plan as to how much is enough. How much is too much. Get some agreement with your wife and or brothers and be accountable.

**Vengeance:** v21-22; See also Romans 12:20 & Hebrews 10:30. I sincerely wish this were not in the Bible. It is an act of faith to obey and trust the sovereignty of God especially when we see injustice prevailing.

Don't take vengeance (Rom 12:17-19; Dt. 32:35). God will repay. He has ordained the government to punish evil doers (Rom 13:3).

One of the repeating themes of the Bible is that God sees and hears everything and no act of righteousness will go unrewarded and no deed of darkness will remain uncovered or unpunished.

**Memorable:** v24: Better to live in the corner of a roof than in a house with a contentious woman. Contentious means: aggressive, militant, hostile, confrontational, combative, irritable, ugly, pugnacious; disagreeable; someone who likes to argue.

The proverb is an observation about the terrible state of the husband of such a nasty woman. He will be miserable as she pulls him down into her own misery. It is truly an unhappy situation.

When a wife is contentious, she is the opposite of the Biblical default to submit to husbands (Eph 5:22; Col 3:18; 1Tim 2:11). This does not mean that she cannot disagree or that she cannot make that disagreement known. It means that she is not prone to automatically try and usurp the authority God has placed her in. If she is constantly and obstinately arguing and confrontational, this is not good.

Unmarried men, choose wisely. Married men, lead your wives well. Don't allow her to be ungodly or immature. Set the example. Repent quickly and communicate to her your expectations while casting vision to get her on board. You need to be on the same page.

Do the work to lead her by having conversations before things get heated. Address issues instead of ignoring them. Bad relationships fester into nasty wounds. Do not let a root of bitterness grow (Heb 12:15). Ignoring problems doesn't make them go away. It makes them worse and deeper seated over time.

Be a man. Reject passivity. Accept responsibility. Lead courageously. Expect the greater reward. Don't sit idly by when things are not good. The pain of confrontation and resolution is worth it in the long term. It may be difficult in the short term, maybe even for years, but the payoff is worth it. Address issues thoughtfully and with a plan but address them. The temptation is always to put things off.

This Proverb is about a contentious wife, but this applies to all things in a marriage. Do not subject yourself to a life of misery and do not condemn her to one either by being passive. It is not ok to let her run things or be constantly in deference to her immaturity. That is immaturity on your part and is unacceptable. If you need to repent and set out on a new course, do it. There are plenty of marriage materials out there about communication. Just be sure you are leading proactively not just reacting out of frustration or anger.

V28 -Being **undisciplined** opens oneself to attack. You are exposed. No protection. Open to being harmed unnecessarily. This can be prevented by exercising discipline. The temporary and relatively small discomfort of making yourself do hard things protects you from permanent and great pain later.

### Conclusion:

We've looked at being discerning, slow to anger and discerning in speech, avoiding vengeance, picking a good wife and leading her, and the benefits of discipline.

### Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word. Help us to understand and obey it. Make us men of wisdom full of grace and truth. Let us be walk with you in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus, by the power of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.