

## **Proverbs 19, Nov 11, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study**

### **Overview:**

Only three verses this week about the mouth... v5; 9; & 28.

The poor, work ethic, riches, wives and discipline are on the docket for today.

### **Commentary:**

#### **Riches, gifts and poor people v1; 4; 6-7; 15; 17; 24**

There are two kinds of poor people. 1. The righteous poor: Those who are poor because of oppression by the wicked. This is the type in v1. It is actually a verse that has to do with integrity over foolishness, but you might also include the idea of financial success as well.

2. Those who are poor because they are lazy sluggards. This is v15 & 24. People don't have because they don't work. Diligence brings about prosperity. Paul says, those who don't work should not eat (2Thess 2:10). 1 Timothy 5:8: "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever". See also Prov 6:6-11.

It is our job to exercise good judgement in determining what category of poor person we are dealing with. Furthermore, children don't have the option of earning and should be considered in a different category. Widows and orphans are to be considered genuinely needy (James 1:27).

V4 & 7: Additionally, money makes lots of friends. Giving gifts makes one popular. Who doesn't want to be around someone who is generous?

V17 gives eternal perspective to those who are generous towards the righteous poor. God sees and will reward. The verse ties a bow tie around the above concept showing us how we should treat those brothers in need.

#### **V5 & 9 False witness**

In both cases the false witness gets repaid severely. In the first case, he is captured. In the second case, he is punished and will die. Presumably, he is executed, or perhaps just rots in prison.

Lev 19:15-18: "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

The 9<sup>th</sup> of the 10 Commandments is "not to bear false witness." Exodus 20:16 and Deuteronomy 5:20.

God hates lying and liars (Prov 6:16-19; 12:22; Zech 8:17). God's people hate lying also (Prov 13:5). Liars go to hell (1Cor 6:9-10; Rev 21:27). Liars are sons of their father, Satan (John 8:44).

## **Wives**

**18:22 "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD."**

**V13b "the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping."**

**V14 "House and wealth are from fathers, but a wife who has insight is from Yahweh."**

Good wives are to be celebrated and recognized as a gift from God. Let us do away with the saying "the boss says..." or "let me ask the boss..." or "happy wife, happy life". God has not called her to lead or direct the household. He has instructed husbands to do that. She is to be domestically inclined, follow your lead, and help you (Titus 2:5; Genesis 2:18).

An argumentative and nagging wife can be the result of poor leadership. If you are not leading and are constantly being passive about your role, you need to repent. If you are not being intentional about your marriage and family, you are to blame because God holds you as the husband responsible.

However, if she is constantly complaining and making trouble, never satisfied, that is not good and you need to confront that. If you won't fight with her, you are not fighting for her. There are times for conflict and you need to determine who is in the right and who is not.

So much of modern material in the church is deeply flawed. It is more modern psychology than biblical instruction. The material put out by John and Eldridge is solidly in this camp. He was a theatre major who got a master's in biblical counseling. I'm not questioning their motives. I am telling you that they flat out take a psychological approach to marriage and ignore many things about submission and order in the family.

There are much better resources out there. I recommend the podcast by Brian Suave and his wife *Bright Hearth*. They give very practical advice on Biblical marriage from a solidly conservative reformed perspective. I have found their podcast very helpful.

**V23 “The fear of the LORD leads to live, so that one may sleep satisfied, not visited by evil.”**

Sleep well due to a clear conscience. Fearing God is not only the starting place but is also the sustaining practice to the godly. It is a continual practice for those who know God and serve Him. The result is peaceful sleep, rest, confidence, and absence from the destruction of sin.

**Discipline of children v18; 20 & v25-27.**

Children are to be directed through discipline. The goal of discipline is to teach self-discipline. That is, to get your children to love the true, the good, and the beautiful. V18 indicates that you are saving him from death. If you love your kids, discipline them regularly. You and your wife need to have an understanding about this and you need to lead both in the conversation and action of discipline.

V20 is about general receiving of counsel and discipline. We should be examples as teachable and repentant men. Then, we should impart that to our children.

V25 is a command to help the foolish become wise or the simple to become prudent. This applies to the general population but has obvious implications for parenting.

Otherwise, what will happen to undisciplined children who grow up? What will be the result? God required the death penalty for v26 (Ex 21:15). To the best of my knowledge there is no record of anyone in ancient Israel who followed through on this. Nevertheless, parents have the ability to communicate life or death to their children.

No child centric parenting. They need direction. They need discipline. They are not to be reasoned with especially at an early age. Just as the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, the fear of parents is the beginning of parenting. They must absolutely know that you are in charge and what you say goes. You are the representative for God in the house.

Not all discipline is the same for the children in terms of how it is dispensed. Some children are more amenable than others. Some are stronger willed and hardheaded. The severity of discipline is different depending on the practical outcome.

One thing is certain, you must never lose. Be careful about which hill you decide to die on, so to speak. But once you choose your hill, never lose. Never give in. Never ever go back on your word.

You can do it differently next time, but you are the authority, not them. If you wrong them, repent later. I guarantee you that they have some unrepentant sin that is involved in the transaction and just because you may have something wrong with your approach or attitude does not negate the need for discipline.

## **Anger v19**

### Closing Prayer:

Father, help us to walk in faithfulness and wisdom. Let us be men who love the You, the truth, our wives and children. We pray for our wives and pray for those who are seeking wives to find favor from You. We invite Your Spirit to lead and teach us. In Jesus' name, Amen.