

Solomon—Extreme Wisdom
Modern Struggles/Ancient Lessons
September 13, 2009
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I. Meeting Solomon (I Kings 3:7-28)

See also Mark 10:45; John 13:1-7; Matthew 12:42

II. Understanding Proverbs

1. In ancient times, wisdom was not primarily about IQ and more information. Wisdom is primarily the ability to make right, God honoring, life-producing decisions.
2. A good proverb has to be brief and pithy. It has to have deep insight into human nature and expressed in a few unforgettable words.
3. A good proverb was to be catchy and visual.

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion. Proverbs 11:22

Three different kinds of statements in Scripture.

1. Law: A command you must always observe.
2. Promise: A guarantee that will always come true.
3. Proverb: A catchy observation about the way things generally are.

• **EXAMPLES:**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Law? Promise? Proverb?

Nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Romans 8:37-39)

Law? Promise? Proverb?

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. Proverbs 10:4

Law? Promise? Proverb?

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6(KJV)

Law? Promise? Proverb?

. D. Proverbs are often designed to force you to read them slowly and think them through.

Why Do We Need Proverbs? Because people are STUPID

III. Adopting a Proverb—Making it Yours!

1. A PROVERB ABOUT OUR WORDS

- *When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.* Proverbs 10:19

Do you always have to have the last word in every situation?

Do you feel the need to win every argument?

2. A PROVERB ABOUT LAZINESS

- *The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!* Proverbs 19:24

Identify one area of life where you are struggling with procrastination. What will it take for you to move into action in this area?

Who can keep you accountable? What specific steps toward transformation in this area can you take?

3. A PROVERB ABOUT ENDURING

- *When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.* Proverbs 10:25

Are you in a “storm?”

Are you lacking hope?

Can you say, “I don’t care how bad the storm is. It will be over one day in this life or the next, and I will still be standing?”

See Also Matthew 7:24:-27

4. A PROVERB ABOUT DISCIPLINE

- *Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.* Proverbs 27:6

Are you receptive to receive loving correction or do you become defensive?

Do you surround yourself with people who only affirm everything you do?

If Balaam could learn from a donkey, then is it possible that God can certainly teach you through all kinds of people?

Can you identify specific people God has been using to speak correction into your life, but you have been resisting?

5. A PROVERB ABOUT SELFISHNESS

- *The leech has two daughters. "Give! Give!" they cry. There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, "Enough!" ... Proverbs 30:15*

Can you identify a behavior in your life that has a "give-me, feed-me" feeling to it?

Are you willing to submit these areas of your life to Jesus and pray for a content and generous spirit?

6. A PROVERB ABOUT GENEROSITY

- *He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done. Proverbs 19:17*

Does the generosity factor in your life need to be turned up a notch?

Are you kind to the poor?

Take Home:

- Tell someone which proverb hit home for you.
- Share how you feel God wants to impact your life through this proverb.
- Let someone know how they can pray for you as you seek to adopt this proverb and see it impact your life.