PROVERBS 25 - More Proverbs of Solomon!

3/22/25 - Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

More Proverbs of Solomon

Pro 25:1 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied:

• Solomon was very prolific. He wrote some three thousand proverbs. We do not have them all. This compilation was made by scribes about three hundred years after Solomon's death, during the reign of King Hezekiah. They are more of Solomon's proverbs.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

- Contrasting here between God, and kings. A king was to be a judge over the people. Matters of judgment were brought to him. He was sort of the court of last resort. He was the final appeal. It was an honor to the king to search out diligently the truth.
- However, in contrast to that, it was the glory of God to cover a matter. Where the king was trying to dig out all of the facts, God is covering all of the gory details of our life of sin. It is a glory to God to just cover it over.
- God is a gracious God. He is a merciful God. What does that mean? That means that God loves to show mercy, and He delights in giving undeserved blessings upon people. God delights to bless you, though you do not deserve it.

Pro 25:3 As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable.

- Incidentally, these first few proverbs had to do with a king. So, the theme of these proverbs, when they were collecting them, they probably just went through, and sort of collected a group of them, in which Hezekiah was relating to a king. "The heaven for height, and the earth for depth,"
- *The heart of kings is unsearchable.* Three things are unsearchable, <u>the heaven</u>, searching the height, you know where does space end? The <u>depth of the earth</u>, we can probe it, but we do not even get through the crust; and the <u>heart of the king</u>, all are unsearchable. (*Jer 17:9*) *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?*

Pro 25:4 Take away the dross from silver, And it will go to the silversmith for jewelry.

- The idea is the removing of the impurities in order that you might get a vessel that is fit for service. (*IPe 4:12*) *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.* Then he refers to that refining, gold being refined by the fire. So, silver and gold, heated to the point of melting, in order that the dross, the impurities might come to the surface, be scraped off. The preparation and purifying of it, in order that it might be made into a vessel that can be used. So, God works in our lives. Many times He uses fiery trials for the refining process, getting rid of the dross. Because God is seeking to make of you a vessel that He can use for His glory.
- God never looks at you only for what He can do <u>in your life</u>. God always has, as His ultimate design for you, what <u>He can do through your life</u>. God finds it necessary however, to work in your life, in order to prepare you as a vessel, that He might work through your life.

Pro 25:5 Take away the wicked from before the king, And his throne will be established in righteousness.

- Now it is interesting as you look at the history of the nation of Israel, how that as the king went, so went the kingdom. But the king was so many times influenced by wicked counsellors. As you look at the history of Israel, and you see those kings that, were, had an evil reign, the nation deteriorated dramatically under their reign. They were surrounded by counsellors, giving wicked advice. Or they would shun the advice of good counsellors.
- We remember Solomon when his son Rehoboam, who took over the throne when Solomon died. The elders advised him to lighten the tax load and the people would follow him. But Rehoboam instead followed the advice of his buddies, telling the people he would really raise their taxes. They rebelled

against him forming the northern kingdom of Israel. They got Jeroboam to be their king, and there came the division, because of the wicked counsellors.

Pro 25:6-7 Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; [7] For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.

• Be humble! Do not try and get in a position higher than where you belong. Keep your place. There are people that are always trying to promote themselves to a place of prominence. The bible says, (*Psa* **75:6,7**) For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. [7] But God is the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another. So, taking a lower place, let the exaltation come from the Lord. Do not seek to exalt yourself. Do not seek to promote yourself. Let the Lord do the promoting of you.

Pro 25:8 Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame?

• *Do not go hastily to court.* Many people jump into a situation, and they are over their head. Suddenly, you find yourself saying, 'You've jumped into it, and you're not really prepared." Do not be in a hurry to get into a strife. "Slow to anger," the scripture said. It is just better not to meddle with strife, not to be explosive.

Pro 25:9 Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another;

• If you hear something wrong, something has gone wrong, do not go around and tell everybody! "Boy I heard that he is doing this, I heard...! Go to him, deal with him! Come to him and say, "Hey brother, I hear that this has happened, and how can I do to help you?" Rather than revealing it to everybody.

Pro 25:10-12 Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined. [11] A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. [12] Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is <u>a wise rebuker</u> to an obedient ear.

- Better to settle the issues in quiet. *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver*. Words fitly spoken, how beautiful they are, including words of rebuke! How valuable they are!
- Now there is a wrong that has been committed, so you go to that person. You deal with it personally. You may find out that there is another side to the story, and you did not hear all of the facts.
- How many times have you reacted to a situation, and you did not have all the facts, and then when you got all the facts, you had to take back your position! Oh, I understand! You know! *Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.*

Pro 25:13 *Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters.*

• Now harvest time is in September, October when it is hot! Really those heat waves, those generated by those east winds, in the time of harvest, and you are absolutely miserable. How comfortable and refreshing *the cold of snow* would be! The *faithful messenger* is a refreshing comfort to his masters.

Pro 25:14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain.

• There is a disappointment, an emptiness, about a false gift. There are people who like to buy friendships. They know how to get people excited. They have got a deal, "and in a week's time you can make a hundred thousand bucks!" *Are like clouds and wind without rain,* You want to kill em!

Pro 25:15 By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

- Patience is a mighty weapon! If you are doing what is right, time is on your side. *By long forbearance, a ruler is persuaded.* William Wilberforce persuaded the leaders of the British Empire to outlaw slavery through *long forbearance* and his dedication to a righteous cause.
- A gentle tongue breaks a bone. A soft answer turns away wrath. It is amazing how you can diffuse a situation, with just a kind word, a pleasant thought

Pro 25:16 Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit.

• Honey is a very sensual delight. Nothing zings the tastebuds on your tongue quite like honey. I mean, it will give your tongue a real trip as far as the taste buds. It is honey, and it is sweet, and it is good,

and a little bit is great, it is pleasant. But if you give yourself over to it, too much, an indulgence into those things, and it can be harmful. It will make you sick. A little bit of good advice here.

Pro 25:17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, Lest he become weary of you and hate you.

• Do not abuse the hospitality of your neighbor, *lest he become weary of you and hate you!* He does not answer the door anymore when he sees you coming. It is hard to have guests that come over and do not know when to go home.

Pro 25:18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club (heavy sledge hammer), *a sword, and a sharp arrow.*

- That is, like a horrible weapon that they beat people with. *Like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.*
- He is destructive. He is injurious, he is damaging, he hurts. The man who will bear a false witness against his neighbor. A *false witness* causes much damage and hurt!

Pro 25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.

• Useless, crippling, and painful! You put your confidence in a man, but he is not faithful. That is just like, crippling to you. You have trusted him to come through, and he does not. You are crippled because of it. A broken tooth or a foot out of joint, is a very miserable, jarring thing. So is putting confidence in an unfaithful person!

Pro 25:20 Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, And like vinegar on soda, Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

• People and their actions can be especially troublesome. They bring discomfort, like taking away one's *garment in cold weather* and constant agitation *like vinegar on soda*.

Pro 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;

• Now Jesus repeated this in the Sermon on the Mount. "Bless those that curse you. Do good to those who despitefully use you. Bless and curse not. If your enemy is hungry, give him bread if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." Someone has said, "The best way to deal with enemies is to make <u>friends</u> out of them" But "*If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*"

Pro 25:22 For so you will hear coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

- This heaping coals of fire on his head. Out of the many commentaries, here are a couple of possibilities.
- Coals of fire create embarrassment! Because they are your enemy, and yet you are doing good for them. You have fed them, you have given them drink, and so they become embarrassed because of the things that they have done.
- Another is that, in those days, there were no matches. It was hard to start or reignite a fire. So, you would take coals to their neighbor's house. So, taking them heaping coals of fire on their head would be an activity of kindness and goodness to them.

Pro 25:23 The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.

• Cause and effect, just like the north wind bringing forth rain. A *backbiting tongue* will cause *an angry countenance!*

Pro 25:24 It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

- Now he already has this in (*Pro 21:9*). It is likely repeated for emphasis.
- In a house with a contentious woman. To have the whole house but to live in constant conflict with a contentious woman is misery. One would be *better* off in a corner of a housetop and have peace in the home.

Pro 25:25 As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country.

• So refreshing! Oh man, what's better than cold water? *to a weary soul*. What is better? *Good news from a far country*. Good news from a far country is so refreshing! "It's like *cold water to a weary soul*?"

Pro 25:26 A righteous man who falters before the wicked Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.

• It is just not good! When the righteous fall before the wicked. That is, you expect more from a righteous person. So, when the righteous fall before the wicked, it is, it is a tragedy, it is *like a murky spring*. It is like *a polluted*, contaminated *well*. It is just a sad and tragic thing!

Pro 25:27 It is not good to eat much honey; So to seek one's own glory is not glory.

- It will make you sick. We got that earlier. So, in the same token is *seeking one's own glory*.
- Do not seek your own glory! We should seek God's glory and not be so concerned about our own!

Pro 25:28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls.

• Have self-control! Rule over your own spirit! You are defenseless if you do not rule your own spirit. Your strength is in the things of the spirit, in the spiritual realm. If you have no rule over your own spirit, you are like a defenseless city. You are apt to fall at any moment.

JESUS, WHAT A WONDER YOU ARE Juanita Bynum/Maranatha Singers (3:27/3:31)

Jesus, What A Wonder You Are. You Are So Gentle So Pure And So Kind You Shine Like The Morning Star Jesus, What A Wonder You Are. (3X)

<u>PRAY</u> FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

President Trump; Vice President Vance; Speaker Mike Johnson; Senate Leader John Thune; Supreme Court; Marco Rubio-State; Scott Bessent-Treasury; Pete Hegseth-Defense; Pam Bondi-Attorney General; Doug Burgum-Interior; Brooke Rollins-Agriculture; Howard Lutnick-Commerce; Lori Chavez-DeRemer-Labor; Robert Kennedy, Jr.-Health & Human Services; Scott Turner-HUD; Sean Duffy-Transportation; Chris Wright-Energy; Linda McMahon-Education; Doug Collins-VA; Kristi Noem-Homeland Security; Lee Zeldin-E.P.A.; John Ratcliffe-C.I.A.; Tulsi Gabbard-National Intelligence; Russell Vought-Management and Budget; Kelly Loeffler S.B.A.; Elise Stefanik-U.N; Jamieson Greer-U.S. Trade; Kash Patel-F.B.I. Director