

Proverbs Chapter 25

The Proverbs in Chapter 25 are still the proverbs of King Solomon but were compiled by a group of men that the Septuagint calls the "friends of Hezekiah".

Proverbs 25:1: *These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah, transcribed. ^[2] It is the glory of God to **conceal** a matter, **but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.** ^[3] As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.*

➤ **God does not need to search into anything; nothing can be hidden from Him. But it is the honor of rulers to _____ out matters, to bring to light hidden works of darkness, expose evil. So how is this applicable to you and me? As the children of God, we are the sons of the King of Kings and as such we need to get to know our King, the Lord Jesus. We get to know Him best through His written Word, our Bibles. Jesus' words in John 5:39: "**You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!**" Paul's confirmation to his foster son Timothy reads; *Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.* ^{2nd Tim. 2:15 [NLT]} The truth, as explained by Isaiah, in 55:9: *For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.* ^[NLT] Therefore, besides searching God's Word to get to know him, we need the guidance of His Indwelling Holy Spirit because the things of God are spiritually discerned. *It is the glory of God to _____ a matter.* ^{1st Cor. 2:14: . . . a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.} ^[NASB]**

Proverbs 25:4: *Take away the **dross** from the silver, and there comes out a vessel for the smith.*

- **Malachi 3:3** portrays God as a silversmith who separates the dross from the pure silver. *"And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness."* ^[NASB] Not only is God separating a remnant from the Jews, but gentiles like you and me as well. At the Great White Throne Judgment, there will come a final separation for all of humanity as the redeemed go to spend eternity with Him in the new heaven and earth, and the _____ of humanity are cast into the lake of fire to join the devil and his minions.

Proverbs 25:5: *Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be **established** in righteousness.*

- A man in a position of power like our president, whose decisions affect a great many people, needs to have the right kind of advisors surrounding him. When our president makes godly decisions, his legacy will be _____ as honorable.

Proverbs 25:6-7: *Do not claim **honor** in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; ^[7] for it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen.*

- This is a human problem that is parallel to that of Satan and is a product of "unrestrained free-will." Jesus spoke directly to it in Luke 14:7-10: *When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: ^[8] "If you are invited to a wedding feast, don't always head for the best seat. What if someone more respected than you has also been invited? ^[9] The host will say, 'Let this person sit here instead.' Then you will be embarrassed and will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! ^[10] "Do this instead—sit at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better*

place than this for you.’ Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. ^[NLT] Trying to get ahead in the business world may be ok, but it is never acceptable in the Church, among God’s people; yet we find many denominational structures built on just such a display of ego. Ergo, don’t claim _____ for yourself, it must be offered by others.

Proverbs 25:8: *Do not go out hastily to argue your case; otherwise, what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame?*

➤ **We see so much of that illustrated in today’s politics, before elections, when the smear machine goes into high gear. Neither can we stand before Almighty God and _____ argue our innocence. Ecclesiastes 12:14: *God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.* ^[NLT] Luke 8:17: *For everything that is hidden, or secret, will eventually be brought to light and made plain to all.* ^[NLT] Then where will we hide our _____.**

Compiler’s note: During the period known as the dark ages, some learned men observed that breadcrumbs left on the table would be gone in the morning and mice would be present. They hastened to advance the scientific opinion that breadcrumbs left overnight turned into mice. Of course, close observation rendered a better opinion leaving these scholars in shame and embarrassment.

Proverbs 25:9-10: *Argue your case with your neighbor, and do not reveal the secret of another, ^[10] lest he who hears it reproach you, And the evil report about you not pass away.*

➤ **I believe that this falls in the arena of slander and gossip. As one who walks according to the way of Jesus, when offended, we should go directly to the offender to _____ our case and not try and gather a coalition of allies by disparaging that person. God has a low opinion of gossips and slanderers. His Spirit writes through Paul’s pen to Timothy, apparently concerning the time of the coming**

apostasy: *But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.* ^[2] *For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,* ^[3] *unloving, irreconcilable, **malicious gossips**, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,* ^{2nd Tim. 3:1-3 [NASB]} Did you notice the group that God has lumped the gossip in with? Proverbs 11:13 speaks of the gossip comparatively; **A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.** ^[NLT]

Proverbs 25:11: *Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.*

- Timely advice is as lovely as golden apples in a _____ basket; saying just the right words at the right time. Many times, we say the wrong things at the right time or the right thing at the wrong time. As we mature in Christ, we will learn to stop before we speak, and consult God's indwelling Spirit for the correct words. Jesus said in Luke 12:12; ". . . **the Holy Spirit will teach you what needs to be said even as you are standing there.**" ^[NLT]

Proverbs 25:12: *Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.*

- Valid analysis or constructive criticism is as treasured by the one who accepts it as jewelry made from the finest gold. Most people have watched, at least a small portion of the show called American Idol, which seeks to discover unknown talent among its participants. Sadly, some contestants were not properly advised or given prior constructive criticism, they then publicly demonstrate their ineptness at the task before them. Were they to accept it, the valid analysis would have been like fine _____ to them, saving them from humiliation and embarrassment? I overheard a lady complain to a neighbor; "My husband is just the opposite of me. I love to sing and all he does is

grumble.” To which the neighbor replied, “well then, why don’t you quit singing?” Perhaps an apt word justly applied!

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

- In our day, to get a glass of cold water, one only has to go to the refrigerator or stop at the nearest convenience store for a large cup of Iced Tea. In Solomon’s day, during the heat of the harvest, the overseer would send a messenger to haul some snow from the top of Mt. Hermon, thereby providing refreshment to the field hands. A _____ is like the one who brings comfort and refreshment; whether it is in a business relationship, to a church member, the pastor or even a best friend.

Proverbs 25:14: *Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.*

- When we are born again, God’s indwelling Spirit give each a gift (gifts) according to our needs to meet God’s calling. 1st Cor. 12:4-7: Now **there are different kinds of spiritual gifts**, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. ^[5] *There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving.* ^[6] *There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us.* ^[7] **A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.**
[NLT]

God has given each of us, for we have all been called to service, a spiritual gift for the purpose of helping the entire Church. Our _____ are different for different kinds of service.

1st Cor. 12:8-11: *To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another, he gives the gift of*

special knowledge. [9] The Spirit gives special faith to another, and to someone else, he gives the power to heal the sick. [10] He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, and another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. [11] It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.
[NLT]

Romans 12:4-8: Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, [5] so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. [6] God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. [7] If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, [study to] do a good job of teaching. [8] If your gift is to encourage others, do it [with compassion!] If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.
[NLT]

Ephes. 4:11: He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. [NLT]

For you and me, as Christians, when we put our faith in our high calling, we can do everything with the help of Christ who gives us the strength we need. God empowers us to carry out the task He has assigned. He will provide the skills

and the talent. Look at Noah, what experience did he have in building a massive ship, yet even today, our modern Navy uses the same formula that he used when working with weight versus water displacement.

Proverbs 25:15: *By forbearance, a ruler may be persuaded, and a **soft** tongue breaks the bone.*

- This is a lesson that I am still hard pressed to learn and struggle to apply, as perhaps you are also. Endurance can persuade those in authority; especially when coupled with _____ speech and reflexive words, they can be won over quicker. An old companion of mine, Jay Rose, during my more zealous days as a new Christian witness, once admonished me to tone down my over the top rhetoric with this homespun wisdom; "you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar." Persuasive language is the most effectual tool to crush strong opposition and win over the hardened mind.

Proverbs 25:16: *Have you found **honey**? Eat only what you need, lest you have it in excess and vomit it.*

- Honey appears to be pictorial of God's provision. It does not require human hands. In fact, it is never part of a sacrificial offering since they all speak of Christ. For God to become a man through the incarnation, to offer cleansing for our sin, was a supernatural event. The inspired writer of Psalm 81:16 records; "*But I would feed you with the best of foods. I would satisfy you with **wild _____ from the rock.***"^[NLT] And of course we all know who the rock of our salvation is; Paul defines Jesus as the Rock in 1st Corinthians 10:4: *and all of them drank the same miraculous water. For they all drank from the miraculous rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ.* ^[NLT] Christ refers to Himself as the rock of salvation in Matthew 7:24: "***Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.***" ^[NLT]

Proverbs 25:17: *Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and **hate** you.*

- **Matthew 19:5:** *And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.'* [NLT]

As a young person, this is a principle that I have violated. Having been brought up in the foster-care system, I essentially became a clingy adolescent, seeking love and companionship wherever I could find it. It wasn't until I had been married a few years that I learned to depend exclusively on my bride for that love. In this day of single-parent homes, I have observed a serious increase in this kind of human need amongst our young adolescent population, attaching themselves to anyone who will give them the slightest show of affection. The danger comes when they infuse themselves between married couples, rather than find the companion that God has selected. Weariness, _____, and rejection will surely be the result from one spouse or the other.

Proverbs 25:18: *Like a club and a sword and a sharp arrow Is a man who bears **false** witness against his neighbor.*

- Bearing _____ witness leaves the victim without a defense and is emotionally painful as if one were being bludgeoned or pierced.

Proverbs 25:19: *Like a **bad** tooth and an **unsteady** foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble.*

- "I have your back" is a popular cliché today, but if you have no faith in the person saying that, it is like a _____ toothache and leaves you _____, even vulnerable. We need to surround ourselves with trustworthy friends especially in times of trouble.

Proverbs 25:20: *Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar on soda, is he who sings songs to a troubled heart.*

- **We are on an incorrect path if we think we can relieve someone's heavy heart by trying to cheer them up by singing happy _____ or telling funny jokes. That idea is as wrong as stealing someone's jacket in cold weather or rubbing salt in their wound; usually **it is best to sit with them quietly and listen** as we empathize in their grief.**

Proverbs 25:21-22: *If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; ^[22] for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.*

- **We covered the subject of revenge previously in Chapter 24:17-18. Vengeance is the exclusive privilege of God. Let's recall Paul's admonition in Romans 12:19-20 as he quotes this proverb, this time we will read it in the NLT [writer's intent translation]. Romans 12:19: "*Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord.*" ^[NLT] If we take our own revenge against those who wrong us, we become our own God, leaving no room for our dependence on Him. God's desire is that we be like our own children that depend on us for security, we should depend on Him for protection and provision. **When we bless an adversary,** by their free-will, it will either drive them nuts or draw them closer to the Cross, in either case, God will _____ us.**

Proverbs 25:23: *The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance.*

- **Just as the predominate weather making wind brings on a change in the weather, so too, we can count on the gossiping tongue to bring on an _____ attitude.**

Proverbs 25:24: *It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.*

- **Proverbs 19:13; Proverbs 21:9; Proverbs 21:19; Proverbs 27:15-16** all cover the nagging spouse. I can easily accept this rebuke as either gender. Paul writes in Ephes. 5:24: *As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must*



submit to your husband's in everything. And just a few verses later, he admonished husbands in like manner, Ephes. 5:28; *In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife.* [NLT]

Many will espouse that this photo illustrates the proverb rather well.

Proverbs 25: 25-26: *Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a distant land.* [26] *Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.*

- **The Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is like cold water to the thirsty. How refreshing is the good news that we receive from God's Word, as His Spirit witnesses with our spirits, confirming that we are indeed God's children! In God's view, when the Christian is deceived by the enemy of our soul and is led astray by the _____, it is as if the refreshing Water of the Word has turned to poison.**

Proverbs 25:27: It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glory to search out one's own glory.

- **Just as it is _____ good to eat too much honey, it is not good for people to think about all the honors that they think that they deserve. We must, through God's mind-renewing Spirit, become skilled at laying down our fraudulent pride; no longer cherishing the praises of others as we learn to give the praise and honor to the one who really deserves it, Jehovah.**

Compiler's note: The name of God, Jehovah is a combination of two Hebrew words, one that imparts a mixed metaphor: [hayah, {haw-yaw'}]; and properly means to breathe or "to be" (in the sense of existence) therefore Hayah [Yahh, {yaw,}] is a beacon of Life. It pictures God {translated Jah} as the Lord, most vehement. It is a Sacred name that demands respect, honor and awe.

Proverbs 25:28: *Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no **control** over his **spirit**.*

➤ The person, who has no control over his _____, is pictorial of the carnal man! When carnal man is made alive spiritually, his new heart's desire, is to seek and follow the ways of the kingdom of God by revelation knowledge (knowledge revealed by God's indwelling Spirit), but the flesh trained mind pursues those realities through rational knowledge. Our New Nature, that one that God has placed in each person who will receive His indwelling Spirit, has within it the fruit of God's Spirit; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. The purpose of our Christian walk, the time we spend in God's university of physical life, is to bring our minds trained by our flesh and five senses, into agreement with our New Nature; which includes by the way, learning to _____ our emotions.

We have certainly picked up some valuable principles about godly living in this chapter.