

Proverbs 19:1-29: God's Situational Handbook

Proverbs offers Godly counsel throughout, using parallelism; a contrast between a person who follows the path of righteousness and those that reject the Word of God, along with the redemption and salvation offered freely by Him.

Proverbs 19:1: *Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.*

As we have stated in a previous chapter, God considers the person who rejects His free offer of forgiveness and redemption, as a fool. A person is better off as an honest _____ walking in the integrity of the word, while living in abject poverty during this life, then a man who is without Christ, earning a great deal of wealth by lies and deception, however popular or advanced in rank they may be.

Proverbs 19:2-3: Also, it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who makes haste with his feet errs. ^[3] The foolishness of man subverts his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.

The Hebrew word for also is the word gam, meaning to gather, used only adverbially like our term “in addition” to, or the word even. The use of gam connects this passage to the previous, whose application is further defined. There are no shortcuts into the presence of God. God has given us a mind, but a mind without _____ is like a computer hard drive without a viable operating system. It will invariably lead to _____. The wisdom and knowledge that we need to make it to graduation day on the University of Earth's campus is found in His Word. A person who ignores the Word is choosing to run his feet down a bad path, and all the while, he rants and _____ at the unfair injustice and unkindness of a Lord he knows nothing about. Matthew Henry comments on this passage; “What good can the soul do, if without knowledge? And he sins who will not take time to ponder the path of his feet.”

Proverbs 19:4: Wealth adds many friends, but a poor man is separated from his friend.

The love of money and the attributes of our old nature are certainly on

display in this proverb. The Hebrew word for _____ is *rea`*, {*ray'-ah*;} which can mean as little as a close associate, or as much as a relative. Our old human nature is drawn to _____, however, the expectations of God for those who call themselves by His name, is for us to seek out the poor, rendering assistance when and where needed, being careful not to create dependence. Sadly, the same old human nature in the personhood of the poor often yields its free-will for provision, willingly enslaving them to their benefactors. God, knowing our human shortcomings, has an expectation of the poor person also, for He says through Paul in 2nd Thessalonians 3:10; . . . *"Whoever does not work should not eat."* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 19:5: *A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will not escape.*

In this chapter alone, Solomon will bring this subject up twice more. It could almost be considered prophetic when we think of Jezebel, Ahab's wife, and queen, who connived to swindle Naboth out of his vineyard. 1st Kings 21:11-16 records the event. ^[11] *So the elders and other leaders followed the instructions Jezebel had written in the letters.* ^[12] *They called for a fast and put Naboth at a prominent place before the people.* ^[13] *Then two scoundrels accused him before all the people of cursing God and the king. So he was dragged outside the city and stoned to death.* ^[14] *The city officials then sent word to Jezebel, "Naboth has been stoned to death."* ^[15] *When Jezebel heard the news, she said to Ahab, "You know the vineyard Naboth wouldn't sell you? Well, you can have it now! He's dead!"* ^[16] *So Ahab immediately went down to the vineyard to claim it.* ^[NLT] In the end, Jezebel came to a very bad end; she did not _____ God's Justice. If we have not repented and received the forgiveness of our Lord Jesus, we can be sure of this; our lies will find us out.

Proverbs 19:6-7: *Many will entreat the favor of a generous man, and every man is a friend to him who gives gifts. ^[7] All the brothers of a poor man hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but they are gone.*

We can be sure that with all of his wealth, Solomon grew weary with the constant request for favors, which may have prompted him to caution his son in a backhanded way about opportunistic _____. In verse 7 he may have been speaking prophetically of the desertion of Christ by his spiritual _____ to be. Jesus who had warned the disciples of his impending death, pursuing them with forgotten words as they temporarily distanced themselves _____ from Him.

Proverbs 19:8-9: *He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good. ^[9] A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will perish.*

On this side of Pentecost, in God's view, communicated through His Word; a person who rejects Him and His offer of eternal life through the redemption made by Christ, and the baptism by His Spirit is a fool. "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God. . . ." Psalm 14:1 [NASB] "There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them." Acts 4:12 [NLT] The wise person is the one who accepts unconditionally the salvation that God offers and continues his life with the _____ provided by His Holy Spirit. To the false witnesses, there is great danger in their deception, their lies will not go _____

Proverbs 19:10: *Luxury is not fitting for a fool; much less for a slave to rule over princes.*

This proverb may not make much sense in our day and age and may have been more apropos in the physical sense during Solomon's time unless we think of its application in kingdom terms. In kingdom terms it is not fitting for a person who is a "slave to sin," the one that God refers to as a _____, to rule over the King's children. Jesus called us that in Matthew 12:50: *Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!* [NLT] Paul affirms that in Romans 8:15 *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"* [NASB] "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Galatians 4:6 [NASB] Addressing _____ Jesus deals with God's provision for those that are His in Matthew 7:11: *If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.* [NLT]

Proverbs 19:11: *A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.*

Part of our new nature, embedded in us when we received and were baptized by His Holy Spirit, is a new nature, one that is contrary to our old way of thinking by our flesh-trained minds. As we mature into and assimilate the character of our new Christ-like nature, we begin to have more patience, able to _____ and forgive an offense and this pleases our Heavenly Father who is able to see His Son in us. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:8-10: *But*

now is the time to get rid of _____, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. [9] Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. [10] In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you. [NLT]

Proverbs 19:12: *The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.*

There was a time, and probably still is, in some countries; where the subjects feared for their lives when they invoked the Kings wrath or were blessed by His _____. Sadly, many fail to recognize that this is still true in the Kingdom of Heaven, where we are all either subjects of the King or His enemies - to be destroyed. Nationally, we seemed to have lost our “Fear” of the Lord, the One who has the power of eternal life or death over us. Psalm 111:10: *Reverence for the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. The rewards of wisdom come to all who obey him. Praise his name forever! [NLT]* Paul records in 2nd Cor. 5:11, a principle that is applicable to all who serve Jesus: *It is because we know this solemn fear of the Lord that we work so hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. [NLT]*

Proverbs 19:13: *A foolish son is destruction to his father, and the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.*

There is absolutely nothing I can say that would make this proverb any clearer. Perhaps just a few words of caution will suffice. As parents we want our sons to be independent as long as they do everything we say. And about the contentious _____, perhaps it is because she views her husband as a fine wine. He starts out as grapes, and she considers it her job to stomp on him, keeping him in the dark until he matures into something that she'd like to have dinner with. It would only be fair to give the counter view from the man's side, which is: "Women are also like fine wine. They all start out fresh, fruity and intoxicating to the mind and then turn full-bodied with age until they go all sour and vinegary and give you a headache." On the serious side, an unruly son can easily overshadow the reputation of a good father. A nagging spouse (husband or wife) needs to work on their own character, externalizing the Fruit of the Spirit that is within them; *love joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, long-suffering, and self-control.* Galatians 5:22

Proverbs 19:14: *House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.*

A discreet and virtuous wife is more valuable than house and riches. ^{MHC} We will cover in more depth the attributes of a _____ wife in Proverbs 31:10-30. The wife who is born again and in the process of sanctification (bringing her mind into agreement with the fruit of the Spirit in her new nature) is a gift to her husband from our Lord.

Proverbs 19:15-16: *Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger. ^[16] He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die.*

A lazy person sleeps soundly but goes hungry; this has a spiritual application as well as physical. Solomon warns his son, and by proxy God warns us, to keep the principles found in the commandments, in order not to abuse His offer of free grace, even by inadvertent disobedience brought on by _____ and ignorance. Those that adhere to random, inattentive living, remain on the broad way that leads to destruction.

Proverbs 19:17: *He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed.*

While there is a profound physical application to this proverb, the spiritual application is far more meaningful. When we show love and compassion to a poor person, we demonstrate the Love of Christ, and now have an opportunity to share with them the gospel. So how do we _____ to our Lord when we show charity? Jesus gives us the answer in Luke 16:9: *I tell you, use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 19:18: *Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death.*

We have all known, or at least heard about parents who have reached a point of exasperation with unruly children; so much so, that they wish they'd never given birth to them. Parents who truly love their children and have _____ for an honorable future for them, will make the added effort to _____ them, beginning early in their young lives, that they may mature into adults pleasing to our Lord. Ephes. 6:4: *And now a word to you fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather,*

bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord. ^[NLT]
Ephes. 6:1: *Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 19:19: *A man of great anger shall bear the penalty, for if you rescue him, you will only have to do it again.*

Some of the Fruit, placed by God's Spirit in our new nature, is patience, gentleness, and self-control. His Spirit brings about or allows situations to develop that effects our person until our mind comes into to agreement with the attributes found in our new nature. We, who desire to help must use discernment and not interfere with the Spirit's course correction, as He renews the mind (in this case) of a short-tempered person. If we do, the trial will come _____ and again, until the Christian being renewed, adopts the characteristic. This is why James is able to write; "*Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy.*" ^{James 1:2 [NLT]}

Proverbs 19:20: *Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.*

Allow your mind to be disciplined as you listen to the _____ of His indwelling Holy Spirit, changing the way that we think, act, and react. Paul writes in Romans 12:2: *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 19:21: *Many are the plans in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord, it will stand.*

Regardless of our _____ and aspirations, what is really important and what we should desire is that our course of actions and procedures agree with God's holy will.

Proverbs 19:22: *What is desirable in a man is his kindness, and it is better to be a poor man than a liar.*

It is far better to have a heart that wishes to show compassion and offer _____, desiring the ability for it, then to have the ability and yet lack the compassion to demonstrate it. Kindness is one of the attributes of our new

nature. God desires that our unsaved, flesh-trained minds come into agreement with the attributes of that nature. And it is better to be poor in spirit seeking to be more Christ like than to be dishonest in our testimony.

Proverbs 19:23: *The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.*

To _____ God is to hold him in reverence and awe! Psalm 2:11: *Serve the Lord with reverent fear and rejoice with trembling.* [NLT] Psalm 25:14: *Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear him. With them, he shares the secrets of his covenant.* [NLT]

Proverbs 19:24: *The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.*

This is obviously a hyperbole, which has a spiritual application. The _____ is a man so lazy that even when he reaches down to his dish to gather nourishment, he is too lazy to bring his arm back to his mouth. For you and me, the Word of God is nourishment, and sadly, many “Christians” are too lazy to pick up their Bibles and feed their souls.

Proverbs 19:25: *Strike a scoffer and the naive may become shrewd but reprove one who has understanding, and he will gain knowledge.*

A gentle rebuke goes farthest with a man of understanding. When we _____ another Christian with the Word of God, they move closer to God’s goal for all of us, that we become more Christ like. Ephes. 4:23-24: *Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.* [24] *You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God’s likeness—righteous, holy, and true.* [NLT]

Proverbs 19:26: *He who assaults his father and drives his mother away is a shameful and disgraceful son.* [27] *Cease listening, my son, to discipline, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.*

There are several ways to apply this proverb, although some of it continues to have a cultural application. On the physical side; the young man who would waste his father’s substance, rather than show prudence, following the example set by his father will make his aged mother destitute and without sustenance. This son is _____ in God’s sight. The corollary on

the spiritual side is when Christians stop _____ to our heavenly Father's indwelling Spirit; they will eventually flounder without His guidance and help, in the course correction needed to fellowship with Him.

Proverbs 19:28: *A rascally witness makes a mockery of justice, and the mouth of the wicked spreads iniquity.*

Amos addresses the problem of a dishonest _____, especially one who would pervert _____ by taking bribes. God takes a rather dim view of such behavior; listen to Him as He speaks through Amos, in chapter 5 and verses 10-12. *How you hate honest judges! How you despise people who tell the truth!* ^[11] *You trample the poor and steal what little they have through taxes and unfair rent. Therefore, you will never live in the beautiful stone houses you are building. You will never drink wine from the lush vineyards you are planting.* ^[12] *For I know the vast number of your sins and rebellions. You oppress good people by taking bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 19:29: *Judgments are prepared for scoffers and blows for the back of fools.* ^[NASB]

The unbelief of man shall not make God's judgment less threatening, or of no effect. As we close this chapter, remember that Christ himself, when bearing sins not his own, was not spared judgment. Since justice and judgment took hold of our blessed Jesus who met the demands of God's Law with His own blood, how much more will mercy be refused to a person who mocks and _____s_ at His virtuous demands. If God would suffer His own Son to severe punishment and death, can we believe that God fails to notice an obstinate sinner? And as a final thought, remember that our God, the Creator, and Designer, the Author and Finisher of all, was not sitting on the sidelines watching the crucifixion of Jesus. No! He was in Christ that day, dying on the cross that you and I might live, and be saved if we accept Christ's propitiation as our own. *2nd Cor. 5:19: namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.* ^[NASB]

