

Devotional and Reading Plan for 2022, Week Twenty-two

Week 22 May 28th-June 3rd, Proverbs 5-24

It is a joy to read the Proverbs. Sometimes you find yourself laughing at the candid way a proverb is written, and yet other times you find yourself stopping to consider the truth behind what was just shared.

A proverb is a short saying to express a truth. Therefore, it should not be surprising that in surprising is how wisdom is defined.

May 28th
Proverbs 5-7 Charming Deception

I watched a documentary on the animals living in the arid deserts of Africa. One of the s hard to chase something down to eat, so God provided this snake with a trick. It buries itself, that is all but the tip of its tail. The tail sticking up looks like a blade of grass. A small curious (or hungry) animal will come up to that attractive blade of grass only to be promptly met by the swift bite of a snake. We can think of things that could look appealing to the eye but fatal to the body. Like an alluring poisonous drink or attractive blade of grass the immoral person attracts their prey.

More important than understanding the wiles of the immoral is identifying our best strategy to avoid situations like that. Solomon has several suggestions:

-4,

- 2) Count the cost, 6:26-35,
- 3) Commit yourself to your spouse, 5:15,18,
- 4) Run, stay away, 5:8,
- 5) Heed the instruction of others, 5:1; 6:20; 7:1-3,24.

May 29th
Proverbs 8-10

Wisdom is described in these chapters as that which; is Contrasted by immorality, folly and foolishness; Fears the LORD; Is excellent and right; Speaks truth and hates deception; Has good judgment; Knows where to discover knowledge and discernment; Hates pride, arrogance, corruption, perverted speech, and evil; Rewards with gifts better than pure gold; Was created by the LORD before anything else was created and was yet part of the creation process; and, Will add years to your life.

It is obvious that wisdom is something more than just intelligence. It has the qualities of godliness. Knowing

IQ or multiple doctorates, but those who perceive things through the eyes of God.

My grandpa was a wise man, though not in degrees or academic accolades. The Word of God poured through his veins and thoughts in such a way that everything was measured

May 30th

Proverbs 11-13 Life-Giving Fruit

before acting.

As much as I enjoy the idea of elaborating on each of these, there is one characteristic of that bear life- appreciate the balance and

giving fruit. His actions are imparting something that leads others to life. And what could be wiser than leading someone to life?

What kind of fruit are you generating? What are the qualities of your life? Are your actions producing something that leads others to life? And, what value have you placed on leading others to life? Choose wisely.

May 31st

Proverbs 14-16 WQ

"Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something." Plato

There are definitely certain characteristics that make a statement. As Solomon continues encompasses the qualities of the wise. They are pleasant, gentle, thoughtful, careful, humble individuals who think before they talk. And, as we learned yesterday, they pursue godly things.

build and build up, plan, handle money well, increase in learning, seek advice, and other various pursuits. They are actively involved in good viable things.

From these descriptions we are again reminded that true wisdom is displayed more externally than internally. The true measurement of our life is where the passion of heart takes h how we act (witness) and what we do (work). Perhaps we should focus less on IQ (intelligence quotient) and more on WQ (wise quotient).

June 1st

Proverbs 17-19 Parental Wisdom

I counted at least seven proverbs pertaining to children in these three chapters. Several describe the pain a parent can experience when their child is on the road to folly. A few others explain the benefits of discipline. There was one, far more uplifting, although I believe a few teenagers would take exception, which re fact, Mark Twain illustrated my point when he wrote, "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

Parenting is definitely one of those things that go better with wisdom. Wisdom is something every parent wants more of. It seems to come too slowly. Wisdom has a great deal to do with ex

June 2nd

Proverbs 20-22:16 Dangerous Business

I enjoy reading quotes by Will Rogers, a great social humorist. One of his comments on
ad various comic

The unfortunate thing is that we have somehow missed the serious perception God takes of gossip. It is not a light, frivolous activity. Romans 1:29 lists gossip as a wickedness associated

Today we are i