



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 23, Day 1 --- Proverbs 4-6

Week 23, Day 2 --- Proverbs 7-9

Week 23, Day 3 --- Proverbs 10-12

Week 23, Day 4 --- Proverbs 13-15

Week 23, Day 5 --- Proverbs 16-18

Week 23, Day 6 --- Proverbs 19-21

Week 23, Day 7 --- Proverbs 22-24

Week 23, Day 1 --- Proverbs 4-6

After reading this section, where do you think we are most easily tempted? Wisdom is understanding what God would do in a situation. God sees both the immediate and the far off consequences of actions and relationships. We often see neither. Recognizing that God always sees both and desiring to see things as He does leads to a much better life. As you read through Proverbs make an effort to identify one new idea each day that you want to apply to your life.

Week 23, Day 2 --- Proverbs 7-9

These chapters paint a picture of wisdom as a person. As you are reading through what images come to your mind from culture, time, and place? I can't help but think of television advertising. It promises everything, but delivers little. In some cases it delivers death. Wisdom has been forever. Wisdom is God's mind, so if I know and practice God's thoughts then I have wisdom.

Week 23, Day 3 --- Proverbs 10-12

Reading through Proverbs can be a little overwhelming. Some proverbs/verses are easily understood and possibly quickly forgotten. Others could be thought about for a lifetime and never fully understood or applied. Which one of these most connected with you?

Week 23, Day 4 --- Proverbs 13-15

I picked out two proverbs from today's reading that have meant much to me. The first one deals with money. It is the basic principle behind most teaching on money both inside and outside of Christianity. It basically says that if you spend less than you earn over a long period of time you will accumulate wealth. This is true. The opposite is also true and more typical of our culture. If you spend even a little more than you earn over a long period of time you will be in poverty. The bubble bursts at some point.

^{13:11} Wealth gained hastily will dwindle,
but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

The second one has to do with our relationship with God. There is no question that in the Old Testament God required sacrifices. What the people didn't understand was that the sacrifices were not a way for them to do evil and still be right with God. But this is what they did. They lived lives full of wickedness and thought that just making the right sacrifice would make everything right with God. It didn't. These

people did not desire to be in right relationship with God. They were attempting to pay for their sins and it can't be done. It is much better to strive to live as God desires constantly depending on Him and demonstrating that through prayer.

^{15:8} The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,
but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.

Which proverb really caught your attention today?

Week 23, Day 5 --- Proverbs 16-18

I picked 3 proverbs to comment on out of this section.

16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,
but the LORD weighs the spirit.

This one I picked because it is personal. I work with a group of people to guide a missionary organization. I think we have made some bad decisions recently. Everyone is convinced that they are doing the right thing, but we have significant disagreement. In our own eyes, mine included, our motives are pure. God is the only one who really knows and I need to remember that.

16:33 The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.

There is a very important principle in this verse that we don't apply very often anymore. It basically says that if you had to choose between two options and both were good that putting the options in a hat and then drawing one out would be a good thing. It says that ultimately God is in control and that he would make certain the best option was chosen.

18:1 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;
he breaks out against all sound judgment.

This is the most important one for you to remember. I hope that you will continually seek out relationships with people who can encourage you in your walk with God. It is my experience that this verse is very true. When people pull away from relationships with Christian friends there is generally something wrong. We don't isolate ourselves to do good. We isolate ourselves to do evil.

Week 23, Day 6 --- Proverbs 19-21

20:14 "Bad, bad," says the buyer,
but when he goes away, then he boasts.

There were several proverbs that meant a lot to me today, but I thought this one was the best one to comment on. It demonstrates how practical this book is. In our culture hardly anyone bargains for anything. In Eastern cultures everyone bargains for just about everything. Part of the bargaining process is for the buyer to degrade what he is buying. The buyer wants to pay as little as possible, then when he gets what he was after he can boast in the tremendous bargain he got.

Week 23, Day 7 --- Proverbs 22-24

The format of the proverbs changes today. Many of them are several lines long and provide deeper instruction on the general themes that Solomon has been emphasizing through the book. What messages are you hearing over and over again? Why do you think these things are so important to God?