



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 25, Day 1 --- Proverbs 27-29

Week 25, Day 2 --- Ecclesiastes 1-6

Week 25, Day 3 --- Ecclesiastes 7-12

Week 25, Day 4 --- 2 Chronicles 9 - 1 Kings 10-11

Week 25, Day 5 --- Proverbs 30-31

Week 25, Day 6 --- 1 Kings 12-14

Week 25, Day 7 --- 2 Chronicles 10-12

Week 25, Day 1 --- Proverbs 27-29

^{27:17} Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another.

Over and over the Bible makes it clear that we need relationships. Our relationships shape us, sometimes for good and sometimes for evil. It is easy and normal to pursue the relationships that encourage us to stay who we are. It is much harder to pursue the relationships that will challenge and change us.

^{29:26} Many seek the face of a ruler,
but it is from the LORD that a man gets justice.

When you're in trouble where do you look for help? Solomon is telling us that most people seek a person in power and seek to influence that person in order to get what they want. Many people who are seeking to influence a ruler are not seeking justice, but injustice. They are seeking favor. If we really desire justice we will seek God, because He is always objective and impartial. These attitudes are essential for dispensing justice.

Week 25, Day 2 --- Ecclesiastes 1-6

This is a very important book in the Bible, yet I find it strange that God let it be written and kept. It is written by Solomon toward the end of his life. I think Solomon realizes that he has missed the joy that God had for him. He has pursued everything but God and the result is a meaningless life. There are still nuggets of wisdom throughout the book, but tomorrow when you get to the ending it will all make much more sense.

Week 25, Day 3 --- Ecclesiastes 7-12

12:13 Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the whole duty of man.

After all the words here is the conclusion. Recognize that the only person who can make sense of life is God. He is the one who holds the key to the present and the future. He created us and wrote the rule

book. It only makes sense to approach life the way God designed it. It may not make sense to us along the way, but it will all make sense when we see Him in eternity.

Week 25, Day 4 --- 2 Chronicles 9 - 1 Kings 10-11

1 Kings 11 is one of the saddest chapters in the Bible. Solomon had everything. In the previous chapter he is described as the wealthiest and wisest man living. It is hard to imagine what he was thinking when he began to marry foreign women. Worse was when he abandoned his worship of God and began to worship idols, foreign gods. The book of Chronicles doesn't mention the negative because it is written to a people who need hope. God wants the people to see in Solomon what was possible. 1 Kings tells the whole story, including the consequences of breaking covenant with God. One of the great challenges in life is to finish well. Solomon didn't and the impact went far beyond his own house.

Week 25, Day 5 --- Proverbs 30-31

It seems that much of Proverbs is spent describing the danger of women, especially the adulterous woman. If the book ended in chapter 30 it would be easy to think that women were second class citizens and a constant danger. This is no truer than that all men are fools, which is another impression you could get from Proverbs. I hope you have had experience with some women in your life who are like the Proverbs 31 woman. Thank about this – what does Proverbs not say about this woman that would be the first thing our culture would describe?

Week 25, Day 6 --- 1 Kings 12-14

Solomon has died and the good times are over. The kingdom is split in two pieces. The northern piece which includes 10 tribes will not follow God, but instead builds temples to idols. The southern piece continues to worship God in Jerusalem, but tries to worship idols at the same time. The stories of both these kingdoms will be woven together through the rest of this book and the book of Chronicles. There are some great stories and some very strange stories in these two books. Prophets, people who speak for God, will play prominent roles in these books. Don't worry about trying to keep all the kings straight. Instead, watch how hard God works to bring the people back.

Week 25, Day 7 --- 2 Chronicles 10-12

If you compare today's reading with yesterday's reading it is easy to see the different perspectives. The two readings cover the same period of time. The book of Kings looks at the situation from the perspective of the northern kingdom – Israel. The book of Chronicles looks at the same time period from the perspective of the southern kingdom – Judah. I've read these stories many times and I still don't understand why a king like Rehoboam would lead his people away from God when they are blessed with peace and prosperity, but that is what he does. Then again, I have a great life, but I still choose to sin. What tempts you to sin, to turn away from God and do your own thing?