

Thirty Sayings of the wise

1. Trust in the Lord

Day 1

Proverbs 22:17-19

17 Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach,

18 for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips.

19 So that your trust may be in the Lord, I teach you today, even you..

True wisdom makes us more dependent on God, not less. We grow in our trust in the LORD, realizing that the pursuit of wisdom begins and continues with a proper view of God.

Proverbs 16:20 – blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord

Proverbs 28:25 – those who trust in the Lord will prosper

Proverbs 29:25 – whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe

Psalm 62:8 - Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Application

What do you mean by ‘pour out your hearts’? Pour out your heart today.

2. Do not exploit the poor

Day 2

Proverbs 22:22-23

22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,

23 for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life.

Deuteronomy 15:7 - If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them.

Sometimes people think that poor don't have great resources, or influence to defend themselves. The scripture says the Lord will take up their case and defend them.

Proverbs 19:17 Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.

Application

Remember the poor today and do the needful.

3. Watch whom you associate with

Day 3

Proverbs 22:24-25

24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,

25 or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.

Proverbs 29:11 Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

Proverbs 29:22 An angry person stirs up conflict, and a hot-tempered person commits many sins.

Do you really want to learn their ways and get yourself ensnared?

According to 1 Corinthians 13:5, anger is a sign of lack of a love, 'it is not easily angered'.

Application

Think about the angry people among you and their deeds. How do you feel you doing such things? What steps are you planning to take to avoid anger/angry people?

4. Be wise with your financial commitments

Day 4

Proverbs 22:26-27

26 Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts;

27 if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.

It is a dangerous thing to become responsible for the debts of other people. Personal debt is to be avoided, so how much more becoming surety for debts of another person.

Every man ought to be just to himself, and his family; those are not so, who, by folly or other carelessness, waste what they have.

Application

If you are struggling with finance, take advice from another person who is disciplined. If you are disciplined try to help someone who you think might not be disciplined with finance.

5. Remove not a border of olden times

Day 5

Proverbs 22:28

Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors.

Deuteronomy 27:17 - Cursed is anyone who moves their neighbor's boundary stone. Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

A landmark – a custom, a tradition, or a value – should not be removed lightly. We should never assume that our fathers set such landmarks for no reason or bad reason.

We should not defend tradition for the sake of tradition, but neither should we destroy tradition just for the sake of destroying it.

Application

What is crossing you mind with regards to this scripture? Pray through it.

6. Sharpen your skills

Day 6

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank..

We can be skilled if we follow the 3D-approach : Decision, Devotion, Determination. One must decide first, then devote or dedicate time to grow in that and be determined to achieve milestones.

The excellence of a man or woman's work can give them great standing in the world. More importantly, it gives them standing before the King of Kings, who promises to reward the one who works diligently unto Him

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Application

Will God say, "Well done"? List some plans to impress God more and more.

7. Put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite Day 7

Proverbs 23:1-3

1 When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you,

2 and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony.

3 Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive.

Putting a knife to your throat means to control yourself. We must be careful of what is in front of us. All that glitters is not gold.

Food, especially have made people to lose their control and made them face unexpected consequences.

1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

Application

Have you craved for anything in your life and lost control? Thank God for protecting you and be watchful.

8. Do not labor to make wealth Day 8

Proverbs 23:4-5

4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness.

5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Though working hard is a mark of wisdom, we don't live for the riches that may come from that work. Those riches are too vulnerable and temporary to be a worthy focus of our life.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Application

Let us examine our hearts of why we do what we do.

9. Don't eat with people who are stingy

Day 9

Proverbs 23:6-8

6 Do not eat the food of a begrudging host, do not crave his delicacies;

7 for he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

8 You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

In v1-3, a warning was given about the lifestyle of the rich. Now the warning is shifted away from the fine food or wealth itself to the motives and intentions of the person offering the meal.

Both luxurious lifestyles and deceitful hospitality are to be avoided. You should reject invitations for dinner by an evil person, who has wicked ambitions other than your pleasure and prosperity motivating his offer.

1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

Application

Pray for a discerning heart to understand people around us.

Proverbs 23:9

Do not speak to fools, for they will scorn your prudent words.

The fool will not receive or appreciate your wisdom. It is like throwing pearls before pigs. Be careful with whom you share your valuable thoughts.

A fool cannot enter into the meaning of words of wisdom; he has no appetite for them, and in his self-satisfied dulness he feels for them nothing but contempt.

Application

Proverbs 22:3, 27:12 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. What are some changes we need to make on our part to be more prudent?

Proverbs 23:10-11

10 Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless,

11 for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you.

Like widows, God took special care of the fatherless, foreigner, and poor. The mighty God promised to come from heaven with vengeance on those who trouble these categories of the weak and helpless. It is wisdom and true religion to go out of your way to help them.

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Application

Have a meal with a fatherless / widow.

Proverbs 23:12

Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

There are great differences among men. Some are winners; some are losers. Some are wise; some are foolish. Men make choices that either cost them wisdom or gain them wisdom. A noble and virtuous man will sacrifice other things in life in order to pursue wisdom.

The man who seeks wisdom will have a happy and successful life, for he rightly understands the world, makes profitable decisions, and avoids pain and trouble.

There are 1,440 minutes in every day. How many do you seek wisdom? How many do you pursue instruction?

Application

How attentive are your heart and ears after hearing the instruction and knowledge of this proverb? What changes will you make today?

Proverbs 23:13-14

13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.

14 Punish them with the rod and save them from death.

The world assumes and believes it has a better idea – let children do whatever they wish, and the freedom will motivate them to be disciplined and wise on their own.

The future of your family, your church, and the nation depend on the wise application of God's inspired and infallible word. Those who rejoice and obey it will be blessed. Those who defy and reject it will bear the consequences, as any honest person can see already.

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Application

Remember all the discipline / correction you have got and thank God for it.

14. Speak what is right

Day 14

Proverbs 23:15-16

15 My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed;

16 my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.

The easiest way to make your father and mother happiest is to be wise. No one but the devil and this wicked world loses when you are wise.

If wisdom exalts you, pleases God, pleases parents, and profits those around you, how important is wisdom to you? It should be the first and last thing you think about each day.

You should cut out all foolish or wasteful activities to focus on getting more wisdom. Life is very short; will you make efforts to be wise in your latter end?

Application

Life is very short; What efforts will you make to be more wise?

15. Be zealous for the fear of the Lord

Day 15

Proverbs 23:17-18

17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.

18 There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

The fear of the Lord is far better. Every sinner, no matter how rich or famous, will die and go to hell. So fearing the Lord is man's whole duty.

With God's blessing and favor, even obscurity and poverty are better than the dysfunctional, hopeless lives and eternal suffering of the wicked.

Fearing the Lord is not a mindset for devotions, for times of trouble, for prayer, for Sunday worship, or the Lord's Supper – it is the lifestyle, perspective, and worldview that real Christians follow every minute all day long.

Application

Read and meditate on Psalm 73.

16. Set your heart on the right path

Day 16

Proverbs 23:19-21

19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path:

20 Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat,

21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

A wise man that wants to be noble and virtuous in life will not choose friends that are gluttons or drunkards. He knows that choosing wise friends is essential to his own success. He will search out sober and temperate men/women that live disciplined lives at all times.

Godly men/women avoid such perverse excess, no matter what ridicule they endure, for they know God is coming in judgment for such sins. They also reject any crowds or persons guilty of these sins to avoid their evil influence.

Application

Pray for those who struggle with those habits and reach out to them.

17. Heed the wisdom and advise of your parents

Day 17

Proverbs 23:22-25

22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it— wisdom, instruction and insight as well.

24 The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.

25 May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!

When the great God brought you into existence, He did not ask you or your parents. He planned and executed a blind date for the three of you based on His perfect knowledge of all circumstances and possible outcomes of the

arrangement. Humble yourself before your God-chosen parents. Obey them. Honor them. Love them.

If you are a parent, and your children show you little or none of this honor or care, humble yourself before the God of heaven and confess your sinful indulgence, careless inconsistency, reversal of roles, overbearing criticism, or permissive environment that cost you the esteemed position of beloved parents

Application

Do something to make your parents happy. If no parents, do something to make some elderly happy.

18. Be aware of your vulnerabilities and susceptibilities

Day 18

Proverbs 23:26-28

26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways,

27 for an adulterous woman is a deep pit, and a wayward wife is a narrow well.

28 Like a bandit she lies in wait and multiplies the unfaithful among men.

The greatest threat to men, especially young men, is whores and adulteresses. An attractive, bold, and immoral woman is their most dangerous enemy.

Young man, avoid company or communication with loose women. Reject their advances. They are liars. The very short pleasure they offer is nothing in comparison to the long suffering here and hereafter. They are a deep ditch and narrow pit. You should marry a woman that fears the Lord and enjoy her and children by her. Those who are married also need to be careful of such things.

Application

What are some temptations you have in this area? Ask God to deliver you.

19. Be careful with your habits

Day 19

Proverbs 23:29-35

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly!

32 In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine confusing things.

34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging.

35 “They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?”

- Woe is trouble, and drunkenness brings lots of trouble and of all kinds.
- Sorrow is grief, misery, and regret, and too much wine will bring them.
- Strife / Contentions are fights and arguments, and over-drinking will cause both.
- Babbling / complaints is altered speech so as not to make sense, and drunkenness will bring that on as well.

Christians are told to reject the mood alterations of drunkenness and to instead choose the filling of the Holy Spirit. There is no bite or sting in the Holy Spirit: there is joy and peace in believing: there is singing from a melody in your heart

Application

Sing few of your favorite songs.

20. Do not desire the company of the wicked

Day 20

Proverbs 24:1-2

1 Do not envy the wicked, do not desire their company;

2 for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about making trouble.

Envy against evil men is desiring and begrudging their pleasure and prosperity in sin. It is thinking that holy living is too strict. It includes desire to be with the wicked and share their joys. But such thoughts forget the depravity of their empty lives and the coming Judgment, when the righteous will be rewarded and the wicked destroyed.

The world is perverse and getting worse. Society has not had a profitable moral thought in generations. Why envy them?

Application

What are some patterns of the world which are against God's standards? Pray through it for God to protect our family, friends....

21. Use wisdom and understanding to establish your home

Day 21

Proverbs 24:3-4

3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;

4 through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

A prosperous and long-lasting family is built by wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. There are no shortcuts. There are no alternatives. Righteous men want to leave a godly and prosperous family in the world.

The blessing of building a home with God's wisdom, God's understanding, and God's knowledge will bring precious and pleasant riches in the spiritual sense and often in the material sense. God's blessing is on the home that seeks and honors His wisdom.

Application

Have a discussion as a family meditating on these scriptures.

22. Invest the time to find trustworthy people

Day 22

Proverbs 24:5-6

5 The wise prevail through great power, and those who have knowledge muster their strength.

6 Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.

Strength here is the ability to know and do good and the ability to detect and oppose wrong, in all areas of life. Wisdom gives a man this strength. A wise man is strong. A man of knowledge gains in strength.

A wise man knows to carefully consider matters before making decisions. He knows that wise counsel from others, and a multitude of them, can save him from serious trouble.

Application

Remember the advisers, thank God for them and thank them for helping.

23. Wisdom is too high for fools

Day 23

Proverbs 24:7

Wisdom is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths.

Wisdom is a wonderful thing, and every man should pursue it. Wisdom is a most precious jewel, and it should be sought and prized above all earthly possessions.

Wisdom requires humility – to admit you are wrong. It requires correction – to be taught by others. It requires courage – to think outside popular delusions.

Fools cannot do these things. They have no heart for them, their eyes and imagination are wandering everywhere else. They are in love with their own thoughts.

Application

Pray through the weaknesses you struggle.

24. Do not be a schemer or a mocker

Day 24

Proverbs 24:8-9

8 Whoever plots evil will be known as a schemer.

9 The schemes of folly are sin, and people detest a mocker.

Can you spot a dangerous man? Devising evil is active planning of sin in the heart and mind. It is worse than sinning by temptation and weakness. Once detected, such a person should be carefully avoided, for he is a mischievous person – dangerous and harmful.

Foolish thoughts are sin in God's sight. Mocker is a person despising correction and teachers, is hated by good men, for he causes much strife.

Application

Do you know dangerous people like that? Please pray for them.

25. Rescue those being led away to death

Day 25

Proverbs 24:10-12

10 If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength!

11 Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter.

12 If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?"

The day of adversity, times of trouble, comes to everyone. The godliest and the most evil will experience their own adversity, and that is a test to see whether or not they will faint or falter.

God will make the fool to answer for his folly, but He will also cause the indifferent one to answer for their lack of care. God will render to each man according to his deeds.

Application

Remember the challenging times in your life and thank God for delivering you.

26. Wisdom is like honey for your life

Day 26

Proverbs 24:13-14

13 Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste.

14 Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Honey is good for reviving a hungry man. Honey also tastes sweet for pleasure in eating it. Gaining wisdom is energizing and delightful, and then it leads to rewarding prosperity.

Wisdom is pleasant and profitable for the soul, like honey is good and sweet for the body. Wisdom has great reward for those who apply it and do it, but not for those who merely observe it, see it, or hear it

Application

Write down five honey like scriptures which you experienced in life.

27. Don't be a cruel person who attacks good people

Day 27

Proverbs 24:15-16

15 Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place;

16 for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

Wicked man, be warned! Do not conspire against the righteous to disturb his tranquility, for God will punish you.

Righteous man, be comforted! God is on your side and sees any evil against you. You may fall, but God will lift you up again.

God has not promised a bed of roses for good men. In fact, to make a good man perfect, the Lord often brings adversity into his life. Though a just man may have afflictions in his life, the Lord will deliver him out of them all.

Application

Spend time with a God fearing person. Listen to their spiritual journey and the challenges they faced.

28. Don't rejoice when your enemies fall

Day 28

Proverbs 24:17-18

17 Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice,

18 or the Lord will see and disapprove and turn his wrath away from them.

Here is a hard test of character. Here is strong evidence if you are a child of God. Here is a real measure of godliness and wisdom. Here is a challenge for your faith, whether you want one or not. Think now. Are you happy when bad things happen to your enemies?

God watches how you treat your enemies. If you are happy when bad things happen to them, He will help them and possibly punish you. God protects His children by punishing their enemies, but He will end that punishment, if He sees you gloating about it.

Application

Pray for those who you think are difficult people in your life.

29. Do not let evil people worry you

Day 29

Proverbs 24:19-20

19 Do not fret because of evildoers or be envious of the wicked,

20 for the evildoer has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.

Do not let glamorous lives of the wicked bother you. Sinners appear to prosper. They look happy. They think they will get away with sin. But their end is coming. Do not envy their temporary success.

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Application

Meditate on Psalm 37 and put them into practice

30. Submit yourselves to every human authority

Day 30

Proverbs 24:21-22

21 Fear the Lord and the king, my son, and do not join with rebellious officials,

22 for those two will send sudden destruction on them, and who knows what calamities they can bring?

It is God's command to fear Him and your nation's top rulers. They are linked together, for God gave authority to your nation's leaders.

1 Peter 2:13-14 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

Application

Pray for the Government. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.