



Part 3: Wisdom—To a T

May 21 & 22, 2016

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Proverbs 22:17-21

- 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.
²⁰ Have I not written thirty sayings for you,
sayings of counsel and knowledge,
²¹ teaching you to be honest and to speak the truth,
so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve?

Wisdom has the ability to transform us if we are willing to apply it. (vs. 17)

- Transform** The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
² for gaining wisdom and instruction;
for understanding words of insight;
³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;
⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—
⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—
⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.
⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction. – Proverbs 1:1-7

Wisdom is embodied in the heart and spoken thoughtfully with the mouth. (vs. 18)

- Tongue** He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious
will have the king for his friend. – Proverbs 22:11
When words are many, sin is not absent,
but he who holds his tongue is wise. – Proverbs 10:19

***In every word (spoken or typed) have you considered the truth,
the timing, the tone, and the temperature of your heart?***

Temper Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man,
do not associate with one easily angered,
or you may learn his ways
and get yourself ensnared. – Proverbs 22:24-25

Wisdom knows that only God can be fully trusted. (vs. 19)

Trust Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight. – Proverbs 3:5-6

Wisdom always reflects truth and honesty (vs. 21)

Truth An honest witness tells the truth,
but a false witness tells lies.
The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Truthful lips endure forever,
but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.
Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil,
but those who promote peace have joy. – Proverbs 12:17-20

Next Step:

- Keep going (or get started) on the Proverbs Challenge: read the chapter of Proverbs that corresponds to the day of the month. (May 22 = Proverbs 22)
- In your interactions over the coming week, keep the “T” words in mind (truth, timing, tone, temper). When you discover a difficult area, ask God for the wisdom, will, and power to make a change.

Small Group Questions

- 1) When it comes to wisdom, who has had the greatest influence on your life? Share a piece of wisdom they gave you that you still use today.
- 2) Think back over your verbal interactions of the past week. Are there any you regret? Why? Any you'd like to change? Why?
- 3) Where do you put your trust? (The easy answer is God.) Where else do you put your trust? Is that eroding your trust in God?
- 4) Are there any areas of life where you feel it's OK to not speak the truth? Can you find some other proverbs about honestly and truthfulness?
- 5) Is there a proverb you've read during the Proverbs Challenge that is transforming or bringing increased confidence into your life? What is it?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?