

The Book of Proverbs

“Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord: Proverbs as a Book on Faith”

Week 17: Proverbs 24:23-25:28, “Other Proverbs from Wise Men and Solomon”

I. Proverbs 24:23-34, “Sayings of Other Wise Men”

1. Fill in this box and consider the parallelism.

Theme	Positive Saying	Negative Saying
Conduct in Court	Impartiality and just judgments (v 23b-25)	(v. 28)
	A right answer (v. 26)	(v. 29)
	(v. 27)	Lazy neglect of labor (v. 30-34)

2. Verse 23b is terse, but what is the curse and blessing for judges as they judge the wicked?

3. Kisses in the ancient world were a sign of a true friend, and did not always indicate romantic attachment. how is someone who gives honest, open answers like one who kisses the lips in true friendship? For examples of familial or fraternal kisses, see Gen 27:26; Ruth 1:9, 14; 2 Sam 19:39; 20:9; Luke 22:47-48.

4. How does v 27 encourage preparation and hard work in every endeavor? What should one do before he “builds [his] house,” that is, start a family?

II. Proverbs 25:1-28, “More Proverbs of Solomon”

5. What is the source of these parables? (v. 1)

6. The time of Hezekiah (715-686 BC) was a time of flourishing in Israel and a time of a return to the Word of God. The Old Testament was copied copiously during this time, and other proverbs and sayings were sought out, as is evidenced by “copied” (25:1). An editor probably found these additional sayings and added them, as well as chapters 30 and 31, to this book. How does this show that the transmission of the Old Testament was not primarily oral?

7. God has not revealed everything about himself to us, but he has revealed what we need for salvation. Read Deut. 29:29; Col. 2:2-3. Where are the treasures of God's wisdom found?

8. How does v 7b-10 echo Jesus' saying in Matt 5:25-26 or Matt 7:1-5?

9. Verse 13 can be confusing, especially to us who do not live in that context. Instead of reading this as a snowfall in harvest, how would snow by itself be welcome to the harvest or those working the harvest? How does this explain the metaphor?

10. How do the two lines of v 15 fit together? How is patience more powerful than force?

11. What are the counterproductive behaviors mentioned in v. 20, meant to elucidate the first line?

12. How does Christ's compassion express itself when you are kind to your enemies? (v. 21-22) how does Paul use these verses in Rom 12:20-21?

13. If we give way to evil, what are we compared to? (v. 26)

Memory Verses for Today:

Proverbs 25:15, "With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone."

Proverbs 25:26, "Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain
is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked."