

Thirty Truths to Wisdom (Part 4)

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Proverbs 24:1-13

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There is a WORLD of DIFFERENCE between the WISE MAN and the FOOL.

Jesus said the difference in Matthew 7.

- Matthew 7:24 – [24] *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*
 - So HEARING the WORDS of CHRIST and obeying them is the WISE MAN. That’s the BASIS of wisdom.
 - Christ is the embodiment of wisdom. Colossians 2:3 – [3] *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
- Matthew 7:25 – [25] *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.*
- If you BUILD in the VALLEY. You are in trouble. If you FAIL to listen to CHRIST. Matthew 7:26 – [26] *And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. [27] And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*
 - The FOOL BUILDS on the sand – and ultimately, it is washed away.
- You want SOMETHING to last, the wise man builds on the HIGH GROUND. On the ROCK.

We see the contrast between the WISE and the FOOL in Proverbs 24.

NINETEENTH SAYING: 19) **Wicked Actions Betray Wicked Hearts**

Psalms 24:1 – [1] *Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them,*

- We’ve seen this danger of envying and keeping company with fools, again in these 30 sayings:
- Proverbs 22:24 – [24] *Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man.*
- Proverbs 23:17 – [17] *Let not your heart envy sinners...*
- Proverbs 24:19 – [19] *...be not envious of the wicked.*

The reason for not doing so is UNIQUE. 24:2 – [2] *for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble.*

- The REASON for not keeping their COMPANY or ENVYING them is the ROTTENESS of their hearts.
- Solomon is saying – “Don’t you know if SOMEONE does EVIL things that they have a WICKED heart.”
- Amos 3:10 – [10] *They do not know how to do right, declares the LORD, “those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds.”*
 - Their heart (LEB) SEAT of AFFECTIONS and DESIRES – devise/ponders – violence/havoc/devastation/wickedness.
 - Their lips talk of trouble – Jesus said that the mouth speaks what is in the heart.
 - Jesus said you will KNOW them by their fruit. What is PRODUCED is indicative of the HEART. And what comes out is EVIL.

So YOU don’t be ENVOIOUS of them – because they are actually in a TERRIBLE POSITION.

- *A WICKED heart cannot be satisfied.*

- A WICKED heart hurts others people.
- A WICKED heart rebels against God.
- A WICKED heart leads to destruction.

WE need to be REMINDED that we need to seek a HEART that belongs to the LORD. The BELIEVER receives a NEW HEART through being born again. Ezekiel 36:26 – [26] *“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.”*

- Proverbs 4:23 – [23] *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

TWENTIETH SAYING: 20) **Wisdom Builds Empires**

Proverbs 24:3 – [3] *By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; [4] by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

- The HOUSE is a METAPHOR for any number of THINGS.
 - It requires a skilled architect. A master builder. Skilled artisans.
- *It could be a METAPHOR for your FAMILY.* Great Families are built on wisdom. Built on CHRIST and DIVINE TRUTH.
 - Remember Joshua... Joshua 24:15 [15] *But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*
- *It could be a METAPHOR for a NATION.* Great Nations are built on wisdom and TRUTH.
- *It could be a METAPHOR for your LIFE.* Great Lives are built on WISDOM.
 - Galatians 6:9 – [9] *Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

TWENTY-FIRST SAYING: 21) **Strategy Wins the Day**

[5] *A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might,*

- In a CONTEST or a BATTLE or even in BUSINESS, Wisdom always trumps brute strength.
- Wisdom is what increases Might or Success.
- WISDOM is what enables SOMEONE to ultimately SUCCEED.
- Proverbs 21:22 – [22] *A wise man scales the city of the mighty and brings down the stronghold in which they trust.*
- So you WANT to STRATEGIZE Wisely. One of the WAYS you do THIS:
 - 24:6 – [6] *for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.*
 - You talk to BRILLIANT PEOPLE. You talk to PEOPLE who have ALREADY done what you want to do.
 - Proverbs 11:14 – [14] *Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*
- MUCH of BEING SUCCESSFUL is SIMPLY getting the RIGHT people on the BUS.
 - Why it's so IMPORTANT to seek COUNSEL when making major decisions.

Make no MASTAKE, a GOOD STRATEGY wins the DAY. So take the TIME to develop a GOOD STRATEGY. And then give it time to IMPLEMENT.

- If you FAIL, go back to the STRATEGY BOARD. And tweak your STRATEGY.
- IMPROVISE and OVERCOME.

TWENTY-SECOND SAYING: 22) **Ignore the Advice of Fools**

24:7 – [7] *Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the gate he does not open his mouth.*

FOOLS do not understand WISDOM. Therefore, they should not open their mouths.

- 1 Corinthians 2:14 – [14] *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*
- There are SOME PEOPLE who don't understand SPIRITUAL things.
- Basically, he's saying, "don't listen to them in the GATE."
- DON'T LISTEN to FOOLS. In one ear and out the other.

TWENTY-THIRD SAYING: 23) Expect Scoffers to Scoff

We must NOT be naive. EVIL PEOPLE SCHEME.

Proverbs 24:8 – [8] *Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer. [9] The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind.*

- Some PEOPLE get in the HABIT of causing EVIL. They SCHEME EVIL.
- They are SCOFFERS of all that is GOOD. They are SCOFFERS of all that is TRUE. Because they have rejected GOD.
- 2 Timothy 3:1 – [1] *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. [2] For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, [4] treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...*
- These PEOPLE become a THORN in the FLESH of the godly.
- SCOFFERS are an abomination to MANKIND.

TWENTY FOURTH SAYING: 24) Perseverance Through Trials

Proverbs 24:10 – [10] *If you faint in the day adversity, your strength is small.*

Everyone can carry on when things are going WELL, but the REAL test of anyone's CHARACTER is ADVERSITY.

- Proverbs 17:3 – [3] *The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.*
- The LORD allows you to go through TESTS in order to grow us. To MOLD us. To SHAPE us.

GREAT LEADERS are DEFINED by how they RESPOND to GREAT CHALLENGES. WITH Christ's STRENGTH you don't have to FAINT in ADVERSITY.

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. [7] *So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. (an eye impairment; Someone who opposed his ministry; a demon); [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. [9] but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10] For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*
- God demonstrates His POWER in our WEAKNESS.
- ISAIAH 40:28-31 – [28] *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. [29] He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. [30] Even youths shall faint and be weary and young men shall fall exhausted; [31] but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

TWENTY-FIFTH SAYING: 25) The Wise Rescues Souls

Proverbs 23:11 – [11] *Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.*

- Proverbs 11:30 – [30] *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.*
- Do EVERYTHING you can to SAVE SOULS.
- Only the GOOD NEWS of CHRIST's SUBSTITUTIONARY WORK can save SOULS.
- PAUL – *I become all things to all men that I might save some.*
- WISE PEOPLE come to the RESCUE of OTHERS. And BRING the TRUTH to BEAR in their LIFE.
- CHARLES SPURGEON – “Do you want arguments for soul winning? Look up to heaven, and ask yourself how sinners can ever reach those harps of gold and learn their everlasting song, unless they have someone to tell them of Jesus, who is mighty to save. But the best argument of all is to be found in the wounds of Jesus. You want to honor him, you desire to put many crowns upon his head, and this you can best do by winning souls for him. These are the spoils that he covets. These are the trophies for which he fights, these are the jewels that shall be his best adornment.”
- To Win SOULS you must press upon PEOPLE their great NEED for CHRIST.

Proverbs 24:12 – [12] *If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weights the heart perceive it?*

Proverbs 24:13 – [13] *Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?*

- God sees how we conduct ourselves with lost people. We are accountable to Him.