



FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

Proverbs
The Proverbs of Solomon
Chapters 9-21
04/19/2023

Introduction:

Solomon does not mind insulting his readers, or at least the reader who is foolish. In chapter 11, the beautiful woman without discretion is like a pig that has a gold ring in its snout. Doesn't fit, and it devalues the ring as if it is worth nothing.

Now, in chapter 12, he will make sure that we understand that wicked behavior is stupid behavior.

In verses 1-3, we see the contrast between the wise and the wicked. The wise has knowledge; the wicked is stupid.

In verses 4-11, he will give us 8 proverbs on the blessings and the banes of domestic life. Marry a bad woman, you are stupid; marry a good woman, you are wise, and she is a crown to your head.

Verses 12-22 offer Solomon's readers the virtues and faults within civil relationships. Depriving someone of what they have worked for and earned is wicked and it is stupid.

And in the last verses, 23-28, we will find that being lazy is stupid. It leads to anxiety, trust in the wrong person, and a general sense of being lost.

We will look at the first section tonight.

Message:**1. Contrast between good and evil, the wicked and the wise:**

Proverbs 12:1–3 (ESV): 1 *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid* (brutish, or like an animal). 2 *A good man obtains favor from the Lord, but a man of evil devices he condemns.* 3 *No one is established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved.*

Discipline is the first defense against a waisted and broken life. Without it, we all fail to our bad habits.

Solomon addressed discipline early on in Proverbs 3:11–12 (ESV): 11 *My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof,* 12 *for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Do you know someone who is always getting themselves into situations that they do not seem to understand why? That is a person who has despised both parental and God's discipline.

God's discipline is a reminder of his love and care for his child.

Hebrews 12:3–8 (ESV): *3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.*

God disciplines us to remove sin’s influence from our lives, and he disciplines us to mold us and make us stalwart (firm/committed) against the world’s intrusion back into our lives.

Discipline, godly, wise discipline trains us to endure stress in the right manner rather than acting on our emotions. There was a time when the churches and schools assisted parents with the task of disciplining children. Unfortunately, with the rise of what is being called the “snowflake” generation, discipline has been tossed aside and we now have what is known as affirmation and esteem building with young people.

I believe it began with my generation. Instead of the winning team being the only ones to receive trophies, in order not to offend the child's esteem, someone decided we should have participation trophies and that we should stop keeping score. However, the kids still caught on and they understood who the real winners and losers are.

Losing or failing is a good way to determine if something is what you want to spend your life pursuing.

Unfortunately, that generation of children grew up and became parents. Now, they have taken the participation concept to a whole new level.

We now have parents who will do the required work for the child, whether that is academics or athletics. They find ways around the scorecard and get their sons and daughters into the "elite" schools, even though that child has not done the work necessary to achieve a level of success within the chosen area of pursuit.

NY Post: *"More than 40 people have been indicted in the scheme that allegedly involved students gaining entrance to schools including Georgetown, Stanford, Wake Forest University, UCLA and Yale as recruited athletes — regardless of their athletic ability — or on inflated college entrance exam test scores. Some deep-pocketed parents paid as much as \$6.5 million — while most plunked down between \$250,000 and \$400,000."*

Now, the testing that was at one time used to determine whether a child should be in a school has been undermined and eliminated. Meritocracy has been replaced with equity; equality of opportunity has been replaced with equality of outcome. Both meant that the previous standards had to be lowered if everyone who desires to have a place in the arena of life, wherever that arena is, was to be granted what they aspired for.

Thus, qualifications no longer mattered, only your identification with one group or the other. We have men setting records within women's sports, even though those same men could not compete in the arena of men's athletics.

This should serve as a warning and, more than ever, we must raise our children to understand the real meaning of righteousness. It isn't some religious ideal; it is a practical reality that affects us all. It isn't right that men should be allowed to compete against women, who biologically are smaller, slower, and weaker than they are. But because righteousness isn't accepted any longer, wickedness is allowed. Make no mistake, what is happening today is wicked, and it is a direct outflow of feminism and poor parenting. That gained acceptance in my generation.

Isaiah 5:20 & 24 (ESV): 20 *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!* ... 24 *Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.*

Let's look back at the end of verse 3, "*but the root of the righteous will never be moved.*"

If we want a good life for our sons and daughters, we must be rooted in righteousness. That means we must be rooted in right thinking, right motivation, right actions, and right living.

Conclusion:

Discipline, while hard and seemingly without merit at the time it is given, produces a fruitful life. And it is a great blessing to the ones who are exercised (trained) and taught by it.

May we learn not to despise discipline!