



Proverbs Daily Dose of Wisdom Devotional



Chapter 20 By Becky Duncan

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Our study of Proverbs is revealing there is a wealth of wisdom packed into each chapter. While studying Proverbs 20, I noted the term diverse weights and measures is mentioned twice (v.10 and v.23) in this single chapter. Like you, I've come to understand that anything that God mentions repeatedly is worth sitting up and taking notice of!

Diverse weights and measures is a term not typically used today. In cases like this, it is a good practice to let the Bible interpret the Bible, and look for other Biblical references. A cross-reference of diverse weights and measures shows references also in Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Micah. A quick review of the related scriptures reveals this is a subject that is important to God.

Diverse weights and measures, which today we would more commonly describe as a double-standard, refers to the common practice of vendors conducting business with two sets of stones, or weights, – light and heavy – by which they bought and sold merchandise to their own profit. With this practice, using one set of stones, vendors would purchase merchandise for less than its value, but, in turn, using a different set of stones, overcharge in selling to their customer. This practice is an abomination or disgusting to God.

Because of the direct connection of diverse weights and measures to conducting business, it is easy to skim over the significance of these scriptures when applied to our lives today especially if we don't own a business. Yet, we are all involved in business-type dealings every day. Keeping in mind that in all of our dealings, God wants the best for us and surround us with favor; yet, He also expects us to be honest in how we treat others and transparently honest with ourselves about our own intentions and actions, let's consider a few typical scenarios we have all encountered:

Buying and selling in our day-to-day lives – what do our personal buying and selling practices look like? Proverbs 20:14 (AMP) addresses one type of business dealing, *"It is worthless, it is worthless! says the buyer; but when he goes his way, then he boasts [about his bargain]."* How often when selling our house or trading in a car do we, understandably, want to make as much as possible on the sale; but in turn expect to

buy our dream house or next car for under market value and possibly even congratulate ourselves about our negotiating skills on the deal we made?

Employment – our job is a business agreement with our employer. We are paid a wage for a set amount of work. Does wasting time, conducting personal business, arriving late or leaving early mean we are over-charging for our service to the company? As a disciple of Jesus, is this really okay?

Day-to-day dealings with our neighbors, co-workers, and family – this covers a lot of territory and has a more generalized application; however, in applying these scriptures to daily life, it is important to understand double-standards of every kind are detestable to God.

- Do we grumble when our neighbors neglect their lawn work and remark on how it brings down the value of the neighborhood, yet give ourselves grace when we get behind?
- Do we get frustrated or hurt with a co-worker's actions (being late, unprepared for meetings, dropping the ball on projects, neglecting to return emails or phone calls, etc.), yet make excuses for similar actions of our own?
- Do we take advantage of family members simply because they are family and will understand?

Take Action:

This week when involved in business or encountering situations that cause frustration, let's take a moment before acting or speaking to first examine the situation objectively for any potential double-standards. As the Holy Spirit reveals areas that need adjusting, be quick to repent and make changes. Remember, conviction is simply God's way of helping us to recognize areas in which we can do better.

Prayer:

Search us, oh God and know our hearts. Help us see ourselves clearly. Help us to recognize where we might be conducting our business dealings with unequal weights and measures or practicing a double-standard by being caught up in ourselves. Point out our weaknesses, and show us how we can improve and, therefore, truly act as your disciple and bring you glory in all that we do. Amen.

What verse stood out to me _____

What is God's wisdom to me _____

What can I do today to go forward with God's wisdom in my life _____

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