



Proverbs Daily Dose of Wisdom Devotional



Chapter 22 By Todd Rutherford

July 22, 2015

Discipline and Wisdom: A Commentary on Proverbs 22 by Todd Rutherford

Proverbs 22 is most known for one scripture regarding the rearing of children. However, this chapter is a stand-alone, ocean crevice of circumspection. Read The Message translation. Then, let us reason together.

Proverbs 22 The Message The Cure Comes Through Discipline 22

A sterling reputation is better than striking it rich; a gracious spirit is better than money in the bank. 2 The rich and the poor shake hands as equals— God made them both! 3 A prudent person sees trouble coming and ducks; a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered. 4 The payoff for meekness and Fear-of-God is plenty and honor and a satisfying life. 5 The perverse travel a dangerous road, potholed and mud-slick; if you know what's good for you, stay clear of it. 6 Point your kids in the right direction— when they're old they won't be lost. 7 The poor are always ruled over by the rich, so don't borrow and put yourself under their power. 8 Whoever sows sin reaps weeds, and bullying anger sputters into nothing. 9 Generous hands are blessed hands because they give bread to the poor. 10 Kick out the troublemakers and things will quiet down; you need a break from bickering and griping! 11 God loves the pure-hearted and well-spoken; good leaders also delight in their friendship. 12 God guards knowledge with a passion, but he'll have nothing to do with deception. 13 The loafer says, "There's a lion on the loose! If I go out I'll be eaten alive!" 14 The mouth of a whore is a bottomless pit; you'll fall in that pit if you're on the outs with God. 15 Young people are prone to foolishness and fads; the cure comes through tough-minded discipline. 16 Exploit the poor or glad-hand the rich—whichever, you'll end up the poorer for it. The Thirty Precepts of the Sages Don't Move Back the Boundary Lines 17-21 Listen carefully to my wisdom; take to heart what I can teach you. You'll treasure its sweetness deep within; you'll give it bold expression in your speech. To make sure your foundation is trust in God, I'm laying it all out right now just for you. I'm giving you thirty sterling principles— tested guidelines to live by.

Believe me—these are truths that work, and will keep you accountable to those who sent you.

1. 22-23 Don't walk on the poor just because they're poor, and don't use your position to crush the weak, Because God will come to their defense; the life you took, he'll take from you and give back to them.
 2. 24-25 Don't hang out with angry people; don't keep company with hotheads. Bad temper is contagious— don't get infected.
 3. 26-27 Don't gamble on the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, hocking your house against a lucky chance. The time will come when you have to pay up; you'll be left with nothing but the shirt on your back.
 4. 28 Don't stealthily move back the boundary lines staked out long ago by your ancestors.
 5. 29 Observe people who are good at their work— skilled workers are always in demand and admired; they don't take a backseat to anyone.
- The Message (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson

As we review history, it seems each generation has descended further into reputation degradation. Teaching future generations the importance of integrity over riches is of great importance. Pursue integrity, knowledge, and wisdom. With these, wealth manifests easily. Those who know me are aware that I have experienced the cycle of destitution, wealth, self-generated destitution in my life multiple times. Each time the manifestation of wealth faltered, one of the principles was found wanting. (Daniel 5:27) We all have opportunity. Some may be born into destitution or wealth. However, if you are the former, pursue integrity, knowledge, and wisdom. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to increase. If you listen, he will guide you.

Are you an out-of-balance borrower? When you have excessive debt, your life is consumed by slavery to payments. When you are consumed with immediate gratification, using debt to obtain things before you can afford them, drowning yourself in obligations, how can you be led by the Spirit into opportunities to generate wealth? We understand that sin is missing the mark. Paul gave us the mark, the high calling of Christ Jesus, "Be one with me." (John 17:21) The use of the word **sow** denotes a continual process. If we miss the mark, we must ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how to avoid repeating the mistake. Otherwise, we will reap the stranglehold of consequences. While some may debate the concept of New Testament tithing, in both the Old and New Testament, being generous is a clear mandate. Both the just and unjust giver have experienced blessing throughout history. Give to the poor. However, give more than food. **Empower the poor to make progress.** Jesus said we will always have the poor. However, I don't believe he meant the poor will stay poor. I believe he meant there will always be people who experience destitution by unexpected external or self-generated causality.

When we find ourselves in the presence of dysfunctional people, the words of Solomon speak volumes. Troublemakers must be removed from your life like weeds from a garden. When confronted, if willing to become teachable, provide guidance along the path toward wholeness. However, if continual progress toward wholeness is lacking, cut them loose. Unrepentant, repetitive, dysfunctional behavior is a viral cancer spread

through influence of others. As God begins to trust you with greater wealth and responsibility, daily ask for grace to remain humble. If you allow greed, pride, or low-value capitalization to gain foothold, eventually, what God has allowed you to build crumbles to dust before your eyes. Avoid unguided risk. If the Holy Spirit provides direction, and you follow instructions, risk-free manifestation is certain. What appears as risk to others is simple obedience if directed by the Holy Spirit. Seek guidance from experienced believers. Studying the failures, successes, boundaries, work ethic, and strategies of others provide the Holy Spirit with the opportunity to reveal applications for success in your life heretofore unattainable. I pray you experience grace and wisdom as you continue your journey toward the high calling of manifested oneness with the Father.

Your brother in Christ,
Todd Rutherford

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 _____

Todd Rutherford is a Child of God, a Follower of Christ, a Husband, and a Father.
www.facebook.com/deepthoughtsbytodd