



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of January 31 – Feb 6, 2015
Lesson: **Book of Proverbs, Lesson 6**

What You Get is Not What You See

Memory Text:

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.” Proverbs 14:12

Sunday’s Lesson

As we look at Sunday’s lesson, there are a number of things that illustrate the traits of a foolishness. Let us take a look at each one of them.

Proverbs 14:3, “In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride.”

The foolish man may use his tongue like a rod to cause harm to another’s reputation. Why would someone do that? It is because of their selfish pride. Therefore, it is a “rod of pride.”

We could understand the term “rod of pride” as “proud speech.” This happens when men seek to lift themselves up before other men. As we will see on Monday’s lesson, humble words and a humble spirit is that of the wise.

Proverbs 14:9, “Fools make a mock at sin.”

While the “scorner seeketh wisdom and findeth it not,” the foolish mocks at sin. He fails to see the seriousness of sin and considers it a light thing. He may even assume the attitude that he shall see no sorrow for all his wrong doings. After all, he proclaims “Where is the promise of His coming?”

The Papacy mocks at the crucifixion of Christ who died once and for all by their endless masses. They teach that the wafer is truly the body of Christ and the wine is truly His blood, but this is a mockery of the death, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ.

Proverbs 14:15, “The simple believeth every word.”

Some people are easily misled because they do not believe in absolute truth. Others, because they have no foundation in the Word of God are easily swayed to accept error. Some are open-minded to a fault because they believe truth is simply based on a person’s experience. We call this existentialism.

Proverbs 14:16, “The fool rageth, and is confident.”

If the wise man considers his way and is careful not to tread upon the wrong path, then the foolish man blindly and recklessly moves forward without careful consideration. The wise man tests what he hears, while the foolish man readily accepts what he hears without squaring it with the Word of God.



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The quarterly says that such a man is motivated by impulse. It seems that the marketing industry knows this pitfall of man and tries to capitalize it at every checkout counter. Billions of dollars are spend every year without much consider being given as to whether we really need such an item or not.

Proverbs 14:21 “He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth.”

Men can despise their neighbors for different reasons. Perhaps, they despise their socio-economic status, perhaps the color of their skin, their religious beliefs, and their appearances. But the wise man has pitteth on others, more than this, they even love their enemies. The latter would clearly teach that such a life could not be possible without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, if we possess any of the foolish man’s traits, there is hope. We can be transformed by the grace of through by receiving the righteousness of Christ.

Monday’s Lesson

On Monday’s lesson we had the opportunity to look at the heaven-born traits of the wise.

Proverbs 14:3, “the lips of the wise shall preserve them.”

The kind and courteous words of the wise shall preserve them. While we should never water down the truth, we are to speak it in the love of Jesus. Such words are meant to restore and not cause harm as are the words of the foolish.

Proverbs 14:8 “The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way.”

The wise man is teachable and seeks daily to grow in his knowledge of the Lord and to understand the will of the Lord. As Paul wrote “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5:15-17

The foolish man may accept most anything he reads on the internet, but would scarcely think of learning anything from the Lord. Whereas, the wise man knows that all wisdom comes from above.

Proverbs 14:15 “the prudent man looketh well to his going.”

The wise man will consider if this new information is truly new light. Is it in agreement with the Word? Does this “new light” draw me close to God? Does it reveal to me the more and more the altogether beautiful character of God? Indeed, the prudent man tests all things with the Word and prayerfully considers the path it would take him. There are some who take up every new thought and begin to present it as truth before that have even tested it with the Word. Some are very attracted to some new and fanciful teaching, even though it is not substantiated by Scripture.



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Proverbs 14:29, “He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding.”

The wise man who practices patience understands what is in man. While he does not make excuses for sinful behavior, he is more than familiar with the pull of human passions.

The foolish man allows his anger to turn to malice, and in the end he condemns the innocent without cause.

But the wise man knows that God is in control and the truth and righteousness will triumph. He need not fear the wicked man and his ways, rather, he must only fear that he would lose self-control and become foolish.

Proverbs 14:21, “he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.”

The first commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength ([Deut 6:4-5](#); [Matt 22:36-38](#)). The second commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself ([Lev 19:18](#); [Matt 22:39](#)). When you love your neighbor, you also love God, because your neighbor was also created in the image of God. More than this, the Father sent His own Son into the world to die for your sins and your neighbor’s sins.

Tuesday’s Lesson

The Adult Quarterly asked us how the following verse made us feel, and why. Proverbs 15:3, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

How is God watching you? Is He waiting for you to do something wrong that He might punish you? Or, does He look upon you with love desiring to help you?

We should rejoice that God is all-knowing and ever-present, for He watches us with the intent and desire to redeem. He sees all, the past, present, and future, and is able to help us in every trying circumstance. Nothing comes as a surprise to Him that sees all. Because He is all-powerful, nothing is impossible with God. He is both all-seeing and all-powerful, and therefore can and will come to our aid immediately. His hand is not short to save to the uttermost.

Wednesday’s Lesson

The Adult Quarterly had as a main text Proverbs 15:23, “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!”

How do you feel when the Lord uses you to help another precious soul? It feels good, doesn’t? There are those golden moments when we are used as an instrument of God to bring someone to Christ, or to teach Bible truths. But we should never think that for a moment that we can be careless with our words at any time. Why? We are at all times witnessing for the Lord. Therefore, at all times our words should be pure and uplifting.



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We are to be used of God each day to say the right words, at the right time, in the right way. As we commit our ways unto the Lord and are ever drinking in His Word, the Lord will open wonderful doors of opportunity to be a blessing to others.

Consider this beautiful Bible promise, “But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. Matthew 10:19.

“The servants of Christ are to prepare no set speech to present when brought to trial for their faith. Their preparation is to be made day by day, in treasuring up in their hearts the precious truths of God's Word, in feeding upon the teaching of Christ, and through prayer strengthening their faith; then, when brought into trial, the Holy Spirit will bring to their remembrance the very truths that will reach the hearts of those who shall come to hear. God will flash the knowledge obtained by diligent searching of the Scriptures, into their memory at the very time when it is needed.” Maranatha 255.

Thursday and Friday's Lesson

Thursday's lesson focused on the sovereignty of God and the power of choice. And the discussion question for Friday was, “Why is it important to understand the reality of human free will and free choice, even if god is ultimately in control?”

God is rightly the Sovereign over the entire universe, for He both created it and sustains it. No other could claim this sovereignty, yet God gave to man the precious gift of freedom of choice as part of His perfect creation. Consider the following Bible verses and SOP statements:

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:” Deuteronomy 30:19

“Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15, 16

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Galatians 6:7, 8

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” Isaiah 30:21



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“The means by which we can overcome the wicked one is that by which Christ overcame,—the power of the word. God does not control our minds without our consent; but if we desire to know and to do His will, His promises are ours: ‘Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’ ‘If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching.’ John 8:32; 7:17, R. V. Through faith in these promises, every man may be delivered from the snares of error and the control of sin.

“Every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him. None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they can find deliverance in Christ. The demoniac, in place of prayer, could utter only the words of Satan; yet the heart's unspoken appeal was heard. No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of utterance in words, will be unheeded. Those who will consent to enter into covenant relation with the God of heaven are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature. They are invited by the Saviour, ‘Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.’ Isaiah 27:5. The spirits of darkness will battle for the soul once under their dominion, but angels of God will contend for that soul with prevailing power. The Lord says, ‘Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? . . . Thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.’” Isaiah 49:24, 25. *Desire of Ages*, 258, 259

“The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, an unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience. ‘Come now, and let us reason together’ is the Creator's invitation to the beings He has made. Isaiah 1:18. God does not force the will of His creatures. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. A mere forced submission would prevent all real development of mind or character; it would make man a mere automaton. Such is not the purpose of the Creator. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God.” SC 43

“There are thousands today echoing the same rebellious complaint against God. They do not see that to deprive man of the freedom of choice would be to rob him of his prerogative as an intelligent being, and make him a mere automaton. It is not God's purpose to coerce the will. Man was created a free moral agent. Like the inhabitants of all other worlds, he must be subjected to the test of obedience; but he is never brought into such a position that yielding to evil becomes a matter of necessity. No temptation or trial is permitted to come to him which he is unable to resist. God made such ample provision that man need never have been defeated in the conflict with Satan.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 331, 332



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“True, we cannot change ourselves; but the power of choice is ours, and it rests with us to determine what we will become. The wayside, the stony-ground, the thorny-ground hearers need not remain such. The Spirit of God is ever seeking to break the spell of infatuation that holds men absorbed in worldly things, and to awaken a desire for the imperishable treasure. It is by resisting the Spirit that men become inattentive to or neglectful of God's word. They are themselves responsible for the hardness of heart that prevents the good seed from taking root, and for the evil growths that check its development.” COL 56

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