



Pearls in the Proverbs Summation

Thanks

- Pastor Jim and Pastor Jamie.
 - Pastor Jim's approach to me.
 - The 'big room' assignment from Pastor Jamie
- All of you for giving me a chance.
 - You were used to having one of the pastors
 - Small fish in a big pond. (CLA)
- The Holy Spirit
 - I have had incredible freedom to teach and preach

- AS WE WENT THROUGH THIS ANCIENT BOOK OF WISDOM A NUMBER REPETITIVE THEMES HAVE SURFACED.
- BE KIND AND GENEROUS TO THE POOR
- BE ALERT TO THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE FLESH
- THE POWER OF WORDS
- GOD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE
- THE LIMITED VALUE OF MONEY
- THE GIFT AND RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILDREN
- VIEWING LIFE FROM AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE
- AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS

- WE SAW CLEARLY THAT GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO BLESS THE POOR AND THAT HE SEEMS TO HAVE EXTRA CONCERN FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEAK AND CANNOT FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

- Prov 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given. NKJV
- Prov 14:21 He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor , happy is he. NKJV
- PERHAPS ONE OF THE TRUTHS THAT WE DID NOT DWELL ON IS THIS; THERE IS RELATIVITY TO BEING POOR AND BEING RICH AND BECAUSE OF THAT MANY OF US WILL GET TO PLAY BOTH PARTS DURING THE SPAN OF OUR LIVES.
- THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN OTHERS WHO HAVE MORE AT THE TIME GET TO BLESS YOUAND THERE ARE OFTEN TIMES WHEN THOSE WHO WERE ONCE POOR NOW NOT ONLY HAVE MORE RESOURCES, BUT ALSO HAVE EYES TO SEE NEEDS.NEEDS THAT WE WOULD KNOW NOTHING ABOUT EXCEPT WE WERE ONCE IN THAT SAME POSITION.

2 Cor 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and God of all comfort , 4 who
comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to
comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort
with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

NKJV

- I HAVE A SOFT SPOT IN MY HEART FOR YOUNG FAMILYS WHO STRUGGLE FINANCIALLY BECAUSE THAT WAS ONCE ME.
- I REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO WORRY ABOUT PAYING THE BILLS AND WONDERING IF I WOULD EVER HAVE ANY SPARE MONEY AT ALL. HOWEVER, IT WAS IN THOSE VERY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT I CAME TO CHRIST AND I SUSPECT THAT HAD MY BANK ACCOUNT BEEN FLUSH THAT I WOULD HAVE MISSED SEEING MY TRUE NEED.
- THERE IS NO VIRTUE IN BEING POOR, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO PUT YOU IN A SPECIAL PLACE OF MERCY AS FAR AS GOD IS CONCERNED. COULD IT BE THAT GOD PURPOSEFULLY ALLOWS US TO HAVE UNMET NEEDS BECAUSE IT IS THEN THAT WE ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO TRUST HIM?

- RICHES AND THE COMFORT THAT THEY AFFORD CAN BE A WORSE CURSE THAN POVERTY. AFTERALL, WHAT WILL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE SHOULD GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, BUT LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?
- I WONDER IF WE WILL EVER REALLY 'GET IT' IN THIS LIFE. I WONDER IF WE WILL ACTUALLY GRASP THE TRUTH THAT THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME AND THAT WE ALL TRULY ARE JUST PASSING THROUGH?
- WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE US SEE THE FACAD THAT COVERS THE THINGS THAT THE WORLD OFFERS?
- SURELY, AS WE THINK ABOUT WHAT THE PROVERBS TELL US ABOUT MONEY, BEING POOR, BEING RICH, ETC ... GOD WANTS US TO SEE ALL OF THOSE TRUTHS AS THEY RELATE TO HIM. SURELY HE WANTS US TO SEE HOW UTTERLY WORTHLESS ALL OF OUR POSSESSIONS ARE UNLESS WE TURN THEM OVER TO HIM.

- Prov 11:24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more ; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. NKJV
- ONLY THE THINGS THAT WE GIVE AWAY HAVE ANY CHANCE OF REMAINING OUR'S AND OUR LIVES WILL BE MEASURED TO SOME DEGREE BY WHAT WE GIVE AWAY. (and to some degree by what we keep)
- Luke 6:38 Give , and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." NKJV
- “HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP TO GAIN THAT WHICH HE CANNOT LOSE” Jim Elliot

- I BILLED THIS STUDY OF PROVERBS AS A STUDY THAT WOULD TAKE OUR THOUGHTS HORIZONTALLY THROUGH THIS LIFE, BUT NOW THAT WE ARE THROUGH I THINK I MUST CONCLUDE THAT WHILE A LOT OF THE INSTRUCTION HAS TO DO WITH THE HORIZONTAL THAT IT IS ALL MOOT WITHOUT AN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR NEED TO LOOK VERTICAL.
- I WILL NOT BE KIND AND GENEROUS TO THE POOR UNLESS HE TRANSFORMS MY HEART. I WILL NOT GIVE TO HIS KINGDOM UNTIL HE HELPS ME TO UNDERSTAND THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DEBT THAT I OWE TO HIM.
- THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE TIME AND SPACE DEVOTED TO THE ALLURES OF THE FLESH. WHO ARE WE KIDDING BUT OURSELVES WHEN WE SAY THAT THIS WORLD OFFERS NO ATTRACTION FOR US?

- WE ARE FLESHLY CREATURES IN A FLESHLY WORLD AND WE ARE IN A FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES EVERYDAY. **EACH MORNING WE EFFECTIVELY GO TO WAR.** IT IS OUR NEW NATURE VERSUS THE OLD NATURE WHO IS ASSISTED BY THE WORLD AND THE DEVIL. WE NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR WE WILL LOSE EVERYTIME.
- **TWO NATURES BEAT WITHIN MY BREAST.**
- **THE ONE IS CURSED, THE OTHER IS BLESSED.**
- **THE ONE I LOVE, AND THE OTHER I HATE,**
- **AND THE ONE THAT I FEED WILL DOMINATE.**
- THERE ARE MANY WARNINGS TO YOUNG MEN ABOUT THE SEXUAL TEMPTATIONS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD. WE LIVE IN A HIGHLY SEXUALIZED CULTURE; SO MUCH SO THAT YOU CANNOT WATCH T.V., GO TO A STORE, DRIVE DOWN THE HIGHWAY, OR EVEN SOMETIMES GO TO A CHURCH WITHOUT BEING BOMBARDED WITH A SEXUALIZED MESSAGE.

- JUST IN OUR LIFETIMES WE HAVE SEEN A FLOOD OF SEXUALITY SWEEPING THROUGH OUR SOCIETY. MODESTY IS CONSIDERED OLD FASHIONED AND PROMISCUITY IS NOW CALLED BEING ENLIGHTENED.
- Isa 5:20 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! NKJV
- NOW HERE IS OUR CHALLENGE; WHAT IF WE AS THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST TOOK A VERY 'JESUS' KIND OF STAND AGAINST THE BLATANT, SINFUL, SEXUAL MESSAGE THAT OUR CULTURE SENDS FORTH?

- SO WHAT DO I MEAN BY A VERY 'JESUS' KIND OF STAND? I MEAN THAT WE CONFRONT THE DARKNESS OF OUR SOCIETY **WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST** AND TRUTH OF CHRIST. THE TRUTH IS THAT GOD LOVES SINNERS AND THAT IS PROBABLY WHERE WE FAIL. **WE ARE SOMETIMES SO PUT OFF BY THE SIN THAT WE PIOUSLY CONDEMN IT WITHOUT OFFERING THOSE CAUGHT IN THE TRAP A MESSAGE OF GRACE AND MERCY.**
- WHEN JESUS DEALT WITH THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY HE DID NOT CONDEMN HER, HE TOLD HER SPECIFICALLY THAT HE DID NOT CONDEMN HER, **BUT ADMONISHED HER TO GO AND SIN NO MORE.**
- WE NEED TO CALL SIN, SIN, BUT WE ALSO AS MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL **ARE COMPELLED TO OFFER A WAY OUT OF SIN'S GRIP. CONDEMNATION WITHOUT HOPE ONLY DRIVES THE LOST FURTHER FROM THE CROSS.** THEY ALREADY FEEL UNWORTHY AND WHEN WE CONFIRM THEIR WORST THOUGHTS ABOUT THEMSELVES WE ARE NOT BEING THE AMBASSADORS WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE.

- I AM STRUCK BY THE PLAINNESS OF SPEECH IN THE PROVERBS WHEN IT COMES TO SEXUAL SIN. GOD HELP US TO BE JUST AS PLAIN OF SPEECH WHEN WE HOLD OUT THE REMEDY FOR SEXUAL SINS.
- SOME OF THOSE PROVERBIAL PEARLS THAT WE SAW IN THE PAST WEEKS DEALT WITH THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND PARENTS.
- ASIDE FROM THE HEAVENLY FAMILY, THERE ARE NO OTHER RELATIONSHIPS LIKE WE HAVE BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN. THE POTENTIAL FOR CLOSENESS IS SO GREAT THAT IT IS EQUALED ONLY BY THE POTENTIAL FOR HURT IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

- PARENTS HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN TO BE INDEPENDENT ADULTS WHO KNOW GOD AND **ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM.**
- THE THOUGHT OF HAVING A CHILD SPEND ETERNITY IN HELL IS ALL BUT UNBEARABLE. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW ONE WOULD DEAL WITH THAT. I KNOW THAT IN HEAVEN GOD WILL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS AND PERHAPS SOME OF THOSE TEARS ARE FOR THE ONES WHO ARE NOT THERE AND ARE CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE.
- SO WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR PARENTS BEFORE US AND OUR CHILDREN BEHIND US?
- WE ARE TO **HONOR OUR FATHERS AND MOTHERS**, AND WE ARE TO **TRAIN OUR CHILDREN**. HOWEVER, THERE IS MORE BECAUSE THESE PEOPLE ARE MORE THAN OUR RELATIVES, THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE WHO ARE TO BE TREATED AS WELL AS ALL OTHER PEOPLE THAT WE MEET.

- WHEN THE PROVERBS SPEAK OF HONESTY, KINDNESS, RESPECT, AND THE LIKE OUR PARENTS AND CHILDREN ARE JUST AS DESERVING AS OUR NEIGHBOR. DO NOT TAKE FAMILY FOR GRANTED FOR THEY TOO ARE ONLY PASSING THROUGH AND YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THEIR JOURNEY WILL END.
- OUR JOURNEY THROUGH PROVERBS ALSO TOOK US THROUGH TEACHING ON THE POWER OF OUR WORDS. ONE OF THE LESSONS FOR ME WAS THAT **THE CLOSER OUR RELATIONSHIP TO ANOTHER, THE MORE POWERFUL OUR WORDS ARE.**
- THAT MEANS THAT IN MY CLOSEST RELATIONSHIPS I STILL NEED TO WEIGH MY WORDS BECAUSE THEY WILL CARRY GREAT WEIGHT WITH THOSE WHO HEAR THEM.

- THIS IS WHY THE WORDS OF A SPOUSE CAN HURT, AND BRUISE AND DESTROY. THIS IS ALSO WHY AFFIRMING WORDS CAN DO GREAT GOOD IN THE LIVES OF OUR SPOUSE, OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR FRIENDS. THE CLOSER THE RELATIONSHIP, THE GREATER THE POWER OF OUR WORDS.
- SO IT IS ALSO WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD. THE CLOSER WE GET TO HIM THE WEIGHTIER HIS WORDS ARE FOR US. HOW SO? BECAUSE WE WANT WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, BECAUSE WE TRUST HIM AND WANT WHAT HE WANTS FOR US. UNTIL YOU GET CLOSE TO HIM, THAT WILL NOT BE TRUE.
- WE RUN TO GOD TO BE RESCUED FROM HELL AND RIGHTFULLY SO, BUT WHEN WE GROW IN GOD WE LEARN TO LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE IS SO LOVABLE. ONCE WE HAVE GROWN SOME WE LOOK FORWARD AS MUCH TO BEING WITH HIM AS WE DO TO NOT BEING IN THAT PLACE CALLED HELL.

- I WOULD SAY THIS IS RIGHTLY CALLED BEING 'SAVED FROM' AND BEING 'SAVED TO'. WE WERE SAVED FROM SIN'S PENALTY AND SAVED TO A LIFE OF JOY IN HIM.
- THE BOOK OF PROVERBS IS REplete WITH ADVICE TO TAKE A LONG TERM VIEW OF LIFE AND TO UNDERSTAND THAT LIFE IS MORE THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE. IN FACT, THE BIBLE DECLARES THAT EYE HATH NOT SEEN AND EAR HATH NOT HEARD WHAT THE LORD HAS IN STORE FOR US. THE BEST THINGS MUST BE SEEN WITH THE SPIRIT.
- ABRAHAM HAD THIS PERSPECTIVE THAT WE ALL NEED AND IT IS THE PERSPECTIVE THAT THE BOOK PROVERBS TEACHES. SIMPLY STATED, WE, LIKE ABRAHAM, ARE ONLY PASSING THROUGH. THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME AND WE ARE LIKE ALIENS ON A STRANGE PLANET.

- THE RICH FOOL THAT JESUS SPOKE ABOUT HAD A LIFE VIEW THAT WAS JUST TOO SHORT. HE SAW THAT HE WAS GAINING A LOT OF WEALTH AND WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW HE WOULD PROTECT IT. HE DECIDED TO BUILD EXTRA BARNES TO HOLD HIS WEALTH AND THEN CONCLUDED THAT HE CAN TAKE IT EASY, EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY BECAUSE HE HAD ENOUGH TO LAST HIM FOR YEARS. (LUKE 12:16-21)
- WHAT HE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE WAS THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO DIE AND LEAVE THIS WORLD BEHIND. IN THE END, HE SPENT ALL OF HIS TIME AND ENERGY PLANNING FOR THE SHORT TERM OF 'MANY YEARS'. WHEN PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE, MANY YEARS IS A SNAP OF THE FINGERS IN ETERNITY.
- BETTER TO STRUGGLE THROUGH THIS LIFE WITH JESUS THAN TO BE A BILLIONAIRE WITHOUT HIM. WOULD YOU RATHER BE RICH IN MONEY, OR RICH IN FAITH? THE ONLY REAL WORTH MONEY HAS IS THE VALUE WE RECEIVE WHEN WE GIVE IT AWAY.

- LIFE WORKS BEST WHEN THE RICH ARE POOR IN SPIRIT AND THE POOR ARE RICH IN FAITH.
- OUR EVERYDAY BATTLE IS KEEPING THIS VERY SIMPLE CONCEPT STRAIGHT IN OUR MINDS **NOW IS SHORT, FOREVER IS LONG.** WHAT WILL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD, BUT LOSES HIS OWN SOUL?
- ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE STRESSED WAS THAT A GOOD WORKING DEFINITION OF WISDOM IS “LOOKING AT LIFE FROM GOD’S VIEWPOINT” WHEN WE SUCCEED IN DOING THAT OUR PRIORITIES CHANGE.
- IF I UNDERSTAND THAT SUCCESS IS NOT HAVING IT ALL, DOING IT ALL, AND BEING IT ALL IN THIS LIFE, BUT SIMPLY TRUSTING GOD TO GET ME THROUGH WITH WHATEVER HE GIVES ME. I AM THEN FREE TO SERVE HIM.

- THE MAN OF THE WORLD IS ALWAYS PURSUING THINGS AND MEASURING SUCCESS BY THE TITLE ON HIS DOOR, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IN HIS BANK ACCOUNT, AND THE SIZE OF HIS HOUSE AND ALL OF THOSE THINGS MEAN NOTHING WHEN HIS LIFE IS ROCKED WITH CANCER, DIVORCE, OR A PINK SLIP.
- FOR THE BELIEVER, WHEN OUR LIVES GET ROCKED WE KNOW THAT EVEN IF WE HIT ROCK BOTTOM WE HAVE SIMPLY COME TO REST ON “THE ROCK” JESUS CHRIST. HE STICKS CLOSER THAN A BROTHER, AND WILL NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US.
- I AM TIRED OF THE WORLD’S DEFINITION OF SUCCESS. THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN THE WORLD’S EYES WILL LOSE IT ALL AND CONVERSELY, THOSE WHOM THE WORLD HAD NO TIME FOR WILL BE JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST.

- IN THE END, I AM NOW FEELING THAT GOD WANTS US TO HAVE HIS WISDOM SO THAT WE WILL LIVE IN A WAY THAT GLORIFIES HIM. EVEN IN SAYING THAT I SENSE THAT THE WORDS ARE ALL TOO FAMILIAR. SO FAMILIAR IN FACT THAT THEY SOUND GOOD TO MY EAR, BUT BOUNCE OFF OF MY HARD HEART.
- IF I AM REALLY LOOKING AT LIFE FROM GOD'S VIEWPOINT WHY DO NOT MY ACTIONS REFLECT MORE OF HIS ACTIONS? (*James 2:18*)
- IF I REALLY UNDERSTAND ALL OF THESE 'RULES' FOR LIVING IN THE HORIZONTAL, THEN WHY AM I SO POVERTY STRICKEN WHEN IT COMES TO FRUIT IN MY LIFE? (*Math 7:20*)
- IN MANY WAYS READING THE PROVERBS IS LIKE READING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THAT I SEE THE STANDARD, COMPARE MY LIFE TO THE STANDARD, AND AM CRUSHED BY THE REALITY OF THE SPAN BETWEEN THE TWO. (*Gal 4:24 'the law was our tutor'*)

- WHEN I TRY TO SUM IT ALL UP I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT WHILE I MAY WANT TO OBEY GOD AND PUT THE PRACTICAL ADVICE OF PROVERBS TO WORK IN MY LIFE THAT I WILL NEVER GET IT DONE UNLESS HE WORKS IN ME.
- SO I COME TO THIS;
- Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
NKJV
- HOW WE LIVE THIS LIFE COUNTS ... OUR WORKS CAN FOR US OR THEY CAN COUNT AGAINST US.... WE GET TO CHOOSE.