

## **When Wisdom Hits Close to Home, part 2**

(Proverbs 19:17-29)

3/14/18; Wed PM Pine Grove

### **Introduction**

A king was hunting in the woods with all his servants when he came upon 3 trees with arrows sticking in the middle of small hand painted targets one each tree...

He was so impressed that he summoned one of his knights to go in search of the person who was such a fine shot..

The knight searched the surrounding area an hour and ran across a young boy with a bow and an empty quiver...

He asked the boy if he had been shooting at trees in the forest...

The young boy said yes and the knight asked him to follow him to the king.

When they arrived in the presence of the king, the king asked the boy if the arrows belonged to him..

The young boy said yes.

The king then replied...

“Did you hammer these arrows into the middle of the target of the trees?”

The boy answered, “No, I shot each of these arrows from 100 steps away.”

The king immediately offered the young boy a large sum of money to come into his personal service...

The boy quickly agreed...

As the king kept speaking to the boy, he asked him..

“How did you come such a good shot at such a young age?”

The boy said, “It is simple. I fire my arrow at tree. Then I walk up to it and paint a target around the place the arrow lands.”

The word of God is an arrow and every time the Word is preached, taught, read, an arrow is fired..

What is unusual is that our flesh often feels that the arrow is directed at someone else..

WE will read a verse and often think...

Man, my friend really needs to hear that or my spouse really needs to hear that or my kids or that man over there on the other side of the church...

But the reality is that God's arrows are pointed at our hearts first...

The Word of God is sent to the target of our heart first..

It instructs us first..

It convicts us first..

It calls for change in our lives first...

I entitled Proverbs 19, "When Wisdom Hits Close to Home," but the reality is that could be the title of nearly any passage in the Bible..

Because all of God's word is directed at the reader's heart first...

However, there are bits of wisdom that seem to have a very personal feel for them...

And Proverbs 19 is a very personal chapter in the sense that personal finances and personal safety hit close to who we are as people...

Tonight, in the second half of the chapter, we get one more verse on how we handle our finances..

And then we get a long section on parenting, which is probably one of the more personal aspects of Christianity...

So in a very real sense, let's get so wisdom for a very personal issues tonight...

We will start in verse 17 with a single proverb on..

### **III. Wisdom in Plenty (17)**

Verse 17...

*17*

***One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord,  
And He will repay him for his [!]good deed.***

We have some of the issue of poverty in our world...

Last week, we looked at personal poverty and affirmed what Christ said about the poor...

Matthew 26:11..

***11 For you always have the poor with you;***

Simply put, poverty is a reality in a fallen world..

Wealth will never be evenly distributed in the present world so there will be always be rich and poor people..

And Jesus didn't come to even out wealth...

He came to die in the place of those who would believe in Him...

So what is a Christian's view of the poor?

First, we point the poor to Christ.

Money doesn't solve all our problems and it surely doesn't solve life's biggest problem, which is our sin before a holy God...

So our greatest responsibility is to share the gospel with them..

Second, we seek to help the poor..

The Bible is clear that the poor have a special place in the heart of God..

That doesn't mean that God automatically saves poor people..

It doesn't mean that God excuses the sins of poor people...

It simply means that God desires to ease the burdens of the poor...

*Psalm 12:5*

5

***“Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, Now I will arise,” says the Lord; “I will set him in the safety for which he longs.”***

As a result, we should have a heart for the poor..

Our first priority is to see them saved...

A second priority is to help them financially...

Always in that order...

With that in mind, we are reminded in verse 17 that he who is gracious to the poor man, who would imply showing mercy to the poor....

Grace is extending kindness to those who don't deserve it...

To be gracious to a poor man would include sharing the good news of salvation to him instead of simply walking by him without speaking...

To be gracious to a poor man would also include helping that person financially without any expectation of return...

Which seems to be the thought of verse 17...

Because we see that the grace extended to the poor here is like "lending" to the Lord..

Lending certainly carries the idea of financial investment...

And so to give to the poor is a gracious act because you have no expectation of financial gain from your act of kindness..

In other words, you wouldn't even call it lending to the poor since you know they cant' pay you back...

Bu the reminder here is plain, if you give to the poor, it is the same as giving a loan to the Lord...

And if you give a loan to the Lord, you should have the expectation of getting a return on your investment...

For instance, if you were rich enough to be able to loan the bank some money, you would do it because you would expect a wealthy institution to pay you back with interest...

In a very real sense, when you hand a poor person \$20, he is not going to pay you back...

But the God who made that poor man will pay you back..

This gets back to seeing people as being made in God's image..

When you help the poor man, you help the Lord...



And the Lord who owns all the cattle of the hills  
and the hills upon which they graze, will repay your  
generosity...

I can think of no one that I would want owing me a  
debt than the Lord Himself...

What does that mean for you and me?

Give to the poor as the Lord lays it on your heart...

You can't give to every poor person and you can  
give at your opportunity that comes your way, but  
when you do give, know that you are making a loan  
to God...

And God never defaults on a loan...

He will repay those who give to the poor...

Now, let's move from verse 17 to the final set of  
verses in this chapter...

In verses 18-29, we will see wisdom in parenting...

#### **IV. Wisdom in Parenting(18-29)**

In verse 18 and verse 27, we see the idea of disciplining a son...

Look at the first part of verse 18...

***18a Discipline your son while there is hope,***

And then in verse 27, we see this related phrase...

***27 Cease listening, my son, to discipline, And you will stray from the words of knowledge.***

Clearly, there is this theme in the end of chapter 19 about a father's discipline of his son...

But it would apply to all parenting including mothers and sons and fathers and daughters..

In short, parents must discipline their kids and kids must accept parental correction or they may stray from the Lord..

Now before we look at these verses, the Bible does not provide a how-to of parenting...

There is no simple step by step approach to Christian parenting...

Therefore, there is freedom on a number of areas of how parents specifically raise their children..

I have seen those books that claim to teach the method of raising your children according to the word of God and offer 150 principles...

The reality is that the Bible would simply say this to Christian parents...

Ephesians 6:4..

***4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***

In reality, that is the only command to parents in NT in regards to how they are to parent their children..

#1 - Do not anger your children in your parenting of them.

#2 - Raise your children in the Lord by disciplining them and teaching them about the Lord.

Now, the book of Proverbs is not a book of commands of how to parent by rather a book that offers some principles in parenting..

We have seen some of these already, but the end of chapter 19 gives us an extended section on parental discipline...

So, let's look at some things that require discipline in the lives of children...

And the point of this discipline is seen in verse 18...

Discipline while there is hope..

In other words, the window to teach and discipline your children is a small window...

You only have a few years to impress upon your children the reality of God and our obedience to Him...

Now the second part of verse 18 is a little harder to translate...

### **18**

***Discipline your son while there is hope,  
And do not desire [m]his death.***

Translations differ here...

The NASB says that a parent is not to desire the death of his child...

King James says “let not your soul spare for his crying.”

ESV says “ do not set your heart on putting him to death.”

Translation is important here and it seems best to see this as warning to not over-discipline your kids..

In other words, don't discipline so frequently and harshly that it causes the death of the child..

In other words be balanced in your discipline...

Some people won't discipline at all for they fear scarring their child for life or upsetting their child..

I will simply say this...

If you are afraid of making your child cry, prepare yourself to cry for the rest of your life as he or she lives in rebellion to God..

But on the other hand, don't be such a disciplinarian that all your child does is cry from correction...

There is a balance here and we must be careful to keep it...

Now, what are some areas in the lives of our children that require our discipline?

Well, let's take a quick look at some of them in the remaining verses of chapter 19...

Verse 19...

**19**

***A man of great anger will bear the penalty,  
For if you rescue him, you will only have to do it  
again.***

As parents, we must address the sin of anger in our children..

As Solomon makes clear here...

Anger has consequences...

And anger like other sins can dominate your life..

Solomon writes that angry people return over and over again to their sin...

Now in terms of correcting our children when they get angry...

First, we shouldn't correct them in our anger...

What are we saying to them if we are yelling at them to calm down when we aren't calm in our correction of them...

Second, we must remind them that anger is the doorway to other sins..

Anger leads to violence, hatred, bitterness, jealousy..

To exercise self control over our temper will lead to greater self control in other areas of life...

A second sin that must be disciplined in our children is the sin of resisting authority and instruction..

Look at verse 20...

## **20**

***Listen to counsel and accept discipline,  
That you may be wise [n]the rest of your days.***

Children need to be taught how to be submissive to authority..

Our culture is not known for listening but for talking...

And our kids are going to be surrounded by a culture that doesn't listen to anyone but themselves...

This is why a young man will buy a gun and murder other people his age...

He has no concept of authority...

The Florida high school was called 30 times about his unruly behavior...

Most people point their fingers at the cops there, and maybe they bear some responsibility but if a young man won't respond to law enforcement, he has a huge problem with authority..

I can tell you this.

If the cops had ever come to my house as a teenager, they would have only had to make one trip to see me.

The second trip would be me calling them to protect me from my dad..

But the reason a child wont respond to the arrival of law enforcement is that he received very little instruction about submission in his home...

In fact, he even hit his own mother..

Were there mental issues?

Maybe, but he had the mental capacity to plan an attack and run from the cops...



The issue is not lack of mental fitness but lack of spiritual instruction..

And I don't know the case, but I can say this...

Lack of respect for authority.

Unwillingness to listen to instruction..

Resistance to accept discipline...

Those are the ingredients for a ticking time bomb in a teenager or an adult..

We must teach our children to be teachable and submissive to authority...

And we discipline them when they aren't.

In my view, this is why the rod or a spanking must be reserved for times of open rebellion...

When you give a child instruction and they directly disobey, they must be disciplined in the harshest way possible so that they learn to the value of obedience and respect for authority...

I must move on, but biblical parenting involves discipline of our children when they refuse to respond to counsel and instruction.

Verse 21...

**21**

***Many plans are in a man's heart,  
But the counsel of the Lord will stand.***

Parenting also requires us to teach our children about the sovereignty of God..

Verse 21 simply teaches that a man can make plans, but those plans are still under the sovereignty of God..

You may try to open a door, but God may be on the other side keeping it shut....

You may shut a door but God is on the opposite side flinging it back open..

Biblical parenting teaches our children about the absolute power of God in the world...

A simple definition of God's sovereignty to teach your children is this...

God is fully in control of all things at all times...

That definition can help your children understand a lot of very difficult things in the world...

That definition can help your family cope with disasters and illnesses and having to move or change jobs or whatever...

Parents need to affirm the sovereignty of God to their kids over and over and over again...

Now to be clear, God's sovereignty does not mean we shouldn't plan or prepare....

It is simply a reminder that the best of man's plans will never overcome the plans of God...

Our children need to learn from a young age the full and absolute power of God over this world...

Don't assume they automatically know that...

They don't.

You have to teach them that quite often.

Verse 22 gives us two more qualities that require discipline in the lives of our children...

**22**

***What is desirable in a man is his [o] kindness,  
And it is better to be a poor man than a liar.***

This is simple to understand..

Discipline your children when they are unkind.

And discipline your children when they lie...

Here's the hard part of that...

Make sure you model kindness and honesty for them...

How dare we tell them to be honest and then let them hear us telling a lie to a friend...

How dare we tell them to be kind and then let them see us be rude in a store.

Verse 23..

**23**

***The [p]fear of the Lord leads to life,  
So that one may sleep satisfied, [q]untouched by  
evil.***

We could spend a whole sermon here, but let me be brief..

Simply put, teach your children the fear of the Lord..

First of all, the fear of the Lord leads to life...

In other words, people are driven to salvation by the fear of the Lord...

You have to teach kids God's holiness and wrath in order to make the gospel appealing...

No one will seek salvation apart from a healthy fear of God..

Second, teaching the fear of the Lord leads to satisfaction...

In other words, one of the benefits of salvation is that we no longer look to the world to satisfy us.

Instead, we are satisfied in Christ alone.

Third, the fear of the Lord leads to security even when you sleep...

The great reality of salvation is that we no longer fear death or evil...

It is no longer our enemy because for the believer, death is the gate to life in heaven..

Saved people sleep good because they fall asleep knowing that they will either wake up in their own bed or in heaven....

Teach your kids the fear of the Lord...

There are so many benefits to learning it...

Verse 24..

**24**

***The sluggard buries his hand in the dish,  
But will not even bring it back to his mouth.***

The effects of laziness are so great that the person of verse 24 won't even lift a finger to feed himself.

He buries his hand in the dish but is so lazy that he can't even pull his hand out to put the food in his mouth...

Teach your children how to work hard in life..

A good strong work ethic is honoring to the Lord.

Now again there is a balance because they are people who worship their work..

Some people have lives that revolve around their work habits...

Though we must work, we must not be mastered by work or the wealth that it comes from...

Teach your kids to work, but don't let work keep you from teaching your kids...

Verse 25..

**25**

***Strike a scoffer and the [r]naive may become  
shrewd,  
But reprove one who has understanding and he  
will [s]gain knowledge.***

The wisdom of verse 25 is that people learn in different ways..

The scoffer won't learn until someone knocks some sense into him...

The naive will learn through the example of the scoffer being struck...

And the wise will learn through simple reproof or correction...

I would simply say this...

Teach your children the ability to correct their behavior but also the ability to kindly correct others..

We live in a society where no one has the courage to identify sinful behavior...

We even live in a church culture where no one wants to offend anyone...

It is important to model for our kids and teach our kids the value of Christian confrontation...

Not in sense of rudeness and unkindness, but in the sense of encouraging people to give up their sin and confronting those who you love to obey the Lord more fully.

Verse 26..

**26**

***He who assaults his father and drives his mother away***

***Is a shameful and disgraceful son.***

Another incredibly helpful verse in parenting that we could spend much time on, but let me simply put it this way..

Teach your children to honor you in your role as their parents..

An theme we repeat often in our household is this..

To disobey us is to disobey God...

God gave you to us..

He has put us over you, and he expects you to obey Him by obeying us..



And that even applies to how you speak to us...

Honor includes both behavior and attitude and tone of speech..

Look, we all understand that it is possible to obey outwardly but disobey inwardly.

The same is true with the honor that children are called to give to their parents...

It must be both outward honor and inward honor, which would include our children's attitude words spoken to us...

That brings us back to verse 27 which affirms the need for disciplining our children...

And then we will end in verses 28-29, which seem to give us the picture of the child who refuses to respond to discipline..

Or even the picture of the child who was never disciplined by his parents...

Verses 28-29...

28

*A rascally witness makes a mockery of justice,  
And the mouth of the wicked [t]spreads iniquity.*

29

*[u]Judgments are prepared for scoffers,  
And blows for the back of fools.*

The outcome of a home where discipline isn't offered and the outcome of a child who refuses to listen is disaster of citizen in society...

He or she is an untrustworthy witness since they were never taught the value of telling the truth and living honestly in the world..

He or she is a loud mouth who spreads sin by what he says...

In other words, a gossipy and slanderous person...

A person with foul language and unwholesome speech would also be included here..

And then the scary part is verse 29...

He has but one thing coming to him..

Judgment...

And included in that would be the judgments of this life but worse yet, the judgment in the life to come...

Simply put, a house that lack discipline produces a child who will be disciplined eventually...

Both by the world and ultimately and finally by the world...

Now, it always needs to be said that none of these are promises of the Scripture...

There are kids raised in undisciplined homes that grow up and love and serve the Lord for their entire lives...

And there are parents that poured in the Bible into their kids and now they live in rebellion to God...

But the truth of these verses remains the same...

Do all you can to our your end as a parent to raise your children to know and fear the Lord...

And simply trust the Lord with the outcome, and praise Him either way..

There are many more verses about parenting coming up on the closing chapters of Proverbs, so we will revisit this many times...

## **Conclusion**

Chapter 19 offers God's wisdom about things are often very personal to us..

How we view money.

How we use money.

How we protect ourselves and how we parent...

Yet, the strange reality of the world is that the things closest to us reveal the most about us...

If you want to know the truth about who people really are...

You can, generally speaking, look at how they spend their money and how they raise their children and figure a lot out about a person...

Therefore, God gives us wisdom that hits close to home to remind us that who we are when the doors are closed is who we really are anyway...

All wisdom points us to Christ, but how well we are living by God's wisdom points to us in the most personal ways..

Let us pray.

