



What's Your Favorite Proverb?

This question came from a recent Wednesday evening Women's Study where one of our assignments was to read through the book of Proverbs one chapter a day. The book of Proverbs is filled with practical wisdom for your everyday life, and is one we'd all benefit from reading through every month (which actually works quite well, since there are 31 chapters).

Of course, since this was a women's study, one of the favorites of the group was Proverbs 18:22 "*He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.*" (I envision a lot of wives at this very moment running to their printers to make a copy of that proverb - in a REALLY BIG font - and then taping it to hubby's mirror!)

And with the holiday-gathering season in full swing 17:1 gives us this good reminder to resolve our conflicts : "*Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.*"

Since many of our everyday problems and conflicts result from stuff that comes out of our mouths, many proverbs deal with that subject. Here are a few much-needed reminders

15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

21:20 *Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down*

21:23 *Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.*

Another area of life that seems to lead to many problems is the way we handle and view money. Here are a couple really wise reminders:

3:9-10 *Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

30:7-9 *Two things I ask of you, Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.*

11:24-25 *One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Pride and always being open to instruction are frequent topics.

13:10 combines the two:

Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

And, the essential remedy for all of our sins,

28:13 *Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

I could list many more "favorite proverbs" but the proverb I find myself coming back to time and again is this one:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

It seems to me that trusting in the wrong thing is what gets us into the most trouble (and most often that wrong thing is "own understanding".) This proverb reminds us that God's will is always the best. Seek His will, then ask for the courage to trust enough to follow His plan instead of attempting to force your plan on Him. That's the key to a "straight path" through life instead of a "broken road."

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net