

Proverbs 12 through 16

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12

Icebreaker:

What types of discipline did you experience as a child? Did you ever get your mouth washed out with soap for lying? Spanking? Being sent to your room for a timeout? (Nowadays to a room that has 100+ cable channels, a plasma TV, an internet connection and maybe two telephones?)

Has the world changed?

For the better?

Study Guide:

1. Rewrite 12:14 in your own words.
2. How does 12:9 translate into our culture today?
3. Describe a recent occasion where your tongue was “reckless” (12:18) and when it brought “healing.”
4. What does 12:27 say about the “lazy man”? How does that contrast with the “diligent man”?
5. From the “fruit of his lips” (13:2) means what?
6. How does one who “scorns instruction”, pay for it? (3:13)
7. What truth is being contrasted in 13:20? Who is it that scriptures says will suffer harm?
8. What is discipline? Do we really need physical or corporal punishment? (13:24)
9. What does “making amends for sin,” mean? (14:9)
10. Rewrite 14:3 in your own words.
11. Proverbs 14:31 says that the “oppressor of the poor, shows contempt for their maker”. What does this mean to you?
12. How could the “seemingly right way” result in death? (14:12)
13. Proverbs 15:1,2,4 and 7 collectively deal with the tongue, lips and speech. Rewrite the individual Proverbs into one in your own words.

14. When have you given an “apt reply”? (15:23) How did it feel?
15. What is meant by “the Lord is far from the wicked”? (15:29) Does God hear the prayers of the wicked?
16. Proverbs 15:13-15 & 30 refer to the heart that is happy, cheerful or joyful. Do you have a “happy heart”? Why or why not?
17. Read 16:1,3,4,9,25,33 what is the underlying principal?
18. In Proverbs 16:10-15 we learn truths about a king. How do these Proverbs apply to our lives today?
19. How are pleasant words sweet to the soul and healing to the bones? Is this literal? (16:24)

Sermon Questions:

1. What was meant by the statement “...we often confuse a biblical principle with a method”?
2. What are the four marks a true friend? (the four C’s)
3. What friend(s) are you thankful for and will encourage this week?
4. How do you live in response to Jesus as your friend?