

## Sunday Morning Message

July 16, 2023

Title – *Wisdom from Proverbs – Just Say No*

Text – Proverbs 1:8 - 19

Congregational Reading – Proverbs 1:1 - 7

### Introduction

On Saturday we started as a church reading the through the Book of Proverbs in our daily devotional reading. Many of us read a chapter from the Book of Proverbs every day of the year, which is a very profitable habit to develop.

Let me give you some general information about the Book of Proverbs.

Proverbs has been called “the Book of Wisdom.” It was written by a man who God says was the wisest man that ever lived, although we know that he did not always follow in his life the wisdom that he was given by God.

### Solomon is the Penman of the Book of Proverbs

According to Proverbs 1:1 and 25:1 the writer of at least most of the Book of Proverbs is Solomon, whose name means *peace*. Solomon was the son of David that was born to Bathsheba. Solomon became king in 971 BC and reigned for forty years until 931 BC. There is much recorded about Solomon in the Bible. Twenty chapters of the Bible: 1 Kings 1 – 11 and 2 Chronicles 1 – 9 are wholly dedicated to the life and reign of Solomon.

Solomon is the writer of one of the Psalms; at least most of the Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; and The Song of Solomon. The Song of Solomon is called by some *The Book of Love* and it was probably written when he was very young; Proverbs is *The Book of Learning* early in his reign as king when he was wise; and Ecclesiastes is known as *The Book of Life* and was most likely written when he was old and after he had made many unwise mistakes.

Chapter 30 (v 1) is recorded as being written by Agur, whose name means “gatherer” – Many think that this is a pseudonym for Solomon.

Chapter 31 (vs 1 & 4) is recorded as being written by King Lemuel, whose name means “devoted to God.” Many also feel that this person also is really Solomon, which, if true, would mean the virtuous woman he is writing about in Proverbs 31 is Bathsheba.

Here are some characteristics of the life of Solomon:

- A. Solomon was known for his wisdom. (2 Chronicles 1:7 – 12)
- B. Solomon was known for his wealth. (2 Chronicles 9:13 – 31)
- C. Solomon was known for his works. (2 Chronicles 2 – 8) He built a house for himself; the House of God; and many cities.
- D. Solomon was known for his women. (1 Kings 11)

Thus, we can glean wisdom from his maxims (proverbs) that he has written; and we can glean wisdom from his mistakes that have been written about him.

### **The Style of Proverbs is Poetry**

Proverbs is a Book of poetry. You will remember that the Old Testament is broken up into three main sections: History (Genesis – Esther); Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon); Prophecy (Isaiah – Malachi)

### **The Subject of the Book of Proverbs are the Proverbs Themselves**

#### **What is a Proverb?**

- Dictionary – a short, pithy (forcefully expressive) saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice.
- Strong – (*mashal*) – sentences of ethical wisdom, ethical maxims. Interestingly, the Hebrew word, *mashal*, has been translated into the English word, *parable*, in several places in the Bible. (7 times in Numbers 23 & 24; Job 27:1, 29:1; Psalm 49:4; Proverbs 26:7, 9)
- Proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experience.
- A proverb is a truth that is couched in a form that is easily remembered.
- Often proverbs that are written by the world may contain fables. However, the Proverbs of God are all completely accurate and they do not contradict each other:

“Look before you leap” vs. “He who hesitates is lost.”

“The best things in life are free” vs. “You get what you pay for.”

These proverbs declare the wisdom of God. From the Book of Proverbs, we can glean financial wisdom, family wisdom, and wisdom that will keep us from being foolish. The Proverbs are not the only source of God’s wisdom; we can glean God’s wisdom from a

variety of sources, but we cannot have the wisdom that God wants us to have without carefully reading and studying The Book of Proverbs.

**I want to encourage you to read the Book of Proverbs, and it would be a great practice to read them every day. There are 31 chapters in the Book of Proverbs and there are 31 days in a typical month.**

### Transition

Today, we are going to learn from the Book of Proverbs that there are some people out there in the world who are not good for us to be around, and these Proverbs tell us that we should avoid them and not let them influence us.

### Read Proverbs 1:8 - 19

*"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." - (Proverbs 1:10)*

In today's vernacular, we would say, "Just Say No." Sometimes people out there in our world try to get us to do things that we do not want to do, and things that God does not want us to be involved in. When that happens, we need to "just say no," but we also need to take it a step further. We need to just say no to running with people who are going to pull us down spiritually.

In this message, we are going to look at one of the first subjects introduced in the Book of Proverbs, and that is the avoidance of bad company. We need to be careful whom we run with. Parents, you need to be very careful whom your children run with. There are certain people we need to avoid. We do not need to be unkind to people, and we should always be polite, but if a person is going the wrong direction, we should stay away from them.

*"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" - (Amos 3:3)*

*"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." - (Ephesians 5:11)*

We need to be careful to know what direction they are headed. The direction is more important than their current position. If they are far away from where I am spiritually but they are headed in the right direction than I will try to help them.

The converse is also true.

I need to be careful that I am in a strong position of influence.

I don't want to be pulled down with them.

## Who to Avoid:

### The Wicked

*"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble." - (Proverbs 4:14-19)*

*"Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." - (Proverbs 4:24-27)*

*"It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment." - (Proverbs 18:5)*

*"Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward (crooked or perverse); he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them." - (Proverbs 22:5)*

*"Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words." - (Proverbs 23:6-8)*

*"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long. For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off." - (Proverbs 23:17-18)*

*"Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them. For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief." - (Proverbs 24:1-2)*

### The Immoral - The Strange Woman (or Man)

*"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater,*

*or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat." - (1  
Corinthians 5:9-11)*

*"And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom  
of a stranger?" - (Proverbs 5:20)*

*"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind  
them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall  
lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with  
thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are  
the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a  
strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her  
eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the  
adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes  
not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth  
in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. Men do not  
despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall  
restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. But whoso committeth  
adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A  
wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. For jealousy  
is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not  
regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts." -  
(Proverbs 6:20-35)*

Read all of chapter 7

*"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding. ... A foolish woman is  
clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing. For she sitteth at the door of her house,  
on a seat in the high places of the city, To call passengers who go right on their ways:  
Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she  
saith to him, Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he  
knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell." -  
(Proverbs 9:6, 13-18)*

## **The Foolish**

*"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding." - (Proverbs 9:6)*

*"He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain (empty) persons is void of understanding." - (Proverbs 12:11)*

*"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." - (Proverbs 13:20)*

*"Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge." - (Proverbs 14:7)*

*"Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words." - (Proverbs 23:9)*

### **The Gossip**

*"He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips." - (Proverbs 20:19)*

### **The Glutton and Drunkard**

*"Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." - (Proverbs 23:20-21)*

### **The Sluggard**

*"6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. 9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? 10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man." (Proverbs 6:6-11)*

Notice that when Solomon talks about the ant and his information is not merely allegorical; it is accurate. It is the female ant that does all the work.

*"26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him." (Proverbs 10:26)*

*"4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat." (Proverbs 13:4)*

*"4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." (Proverbs 20:4)*

*"16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason."*

(Proverbs 26:16)

### **Those That Change (and not in the right direction)**

*"My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?" -*

(Proverbs 24:21-22)

People sometimes move from the right position. We often use the phrase "He's changed", or "she's changed"; many times, it is not in reference to a good change.

The specific reference here involves someone who wants to overthrow a king. It speaks of rebellion. Change, unless it is change toward God, is rooted in rebellion. People often change "away" from God.

*"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;" - (Titus 3:10)*

### **Conclusion**

There are people within our world, meaning people that we know personally, who possess these character traits, and we should avoid them. But there are also people out there in the greater world, meaning people on television, social media, etc. who are like these folks that we examined today from these Proverbs given to us by God 3,000 years ago, and we should avoid them also. Parents need to be very careful about who they let their children hang around as well.

We need to love all people and we certainly should not be unkind to anybody, but there are certain folks out there who are not good for us to hang around. They will try to pull us out of the will of God and draw us to become like they are.

Dr. Gray always says, "you are, or you soon will be who you hang around." Stop hanging around people who will bring you down spiritually by pulling you away from what God wants for you.