

## **Listen to Your Father**

### **Prov 23:22**

22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. NKJV

The book of Proverbs is a wonderful repository of wisdom. Wisdom that often seems obvious to many of us. But it is not obvious to everyone.

The passage before us is such a passage.

For countless generations this advice has been given and followed by most children. They may rebel in the beginning but added years seem to have a way of educating people.

- I. This is for the benefit of the children.
  - A. Knowledge can be gained quickly but wisdom only comes by years.
    1. Experience is usually the way we learn.
    2. Some can learn from the mistakes of others.
    3. But many have to make their own mistakes.
  - B. Wisdom can be passed from one generation to the next.
    1. Fathers spend much time in making sure that the children are knowledgeable which is good.
    2. But it is wisdom that our generation is needing or else we would not been in the mess we are in.
    3. So I think they should be more concerned about the areas of wisdom.
      - a. Proverbs 3:13-18 (NKJV) Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.
    4. Who do you trust?
      - a. God, Romans 11:33 (NKJV) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
      - b. Psalm 118:8-9 (NKJV) It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD Than to

put confidence in princes.

- c. Some advise to trust only yourself. Well that doesn't seem smart.
- d. Some people think we can trust in our government.
- e. They are the ones who got us here.
- f. They have allowed the old ways to slip by and have put up new paper houses that will surely fall.
- g. Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV) "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water.

5. What tells what kind of person a person really is?

- a. 3 John 11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. NKJV

C. That is why it is so important to select carefully those who we give access to our children.

- 1. Psalm 1:1-6 (NKJV) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

D. People have a tendency to count friends as their best advisors.

- 1. Rehoboam did this to the ruin of the nation even at 41 years of age.
- 2. Why would a person get advice from someone just as clueless as yourself.
- 3. God intended for fathers and mothers to be the counselors for the children.
- 4. We are all clueless in some things and we should admit and seek advice from the best place available.

II. It is for the benefit of society.

A. Solomon's wisdom affected the entire nation.

- 1. 1 Kings 3:9 (NKJV) Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For

who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

- B. We have so many people who have knowledge by not wisdom.
  - 1. Psalm 53:1-4 (NKJV) The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good. God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call upon God?

III. It is for the future not the past.

- A. Ps 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God. NKJV
- B. Ps 50:22 "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver: NKJV
- C. Deut 7:12 "Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.<sup>13</sup> And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.<sup>14</sup> You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock.<sup>15</sup> And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you. NKJV
- D. Acts 10:34-36 Then Peter opened his mouth and said:"In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.<sup>35</sup> But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.<sup>36</sup> The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ -- He is Lord of all NKJV

IV. It is from God not from man.

- A. God has established certain rules that govern society.
  - 1. We do not have to go by those rules but we will pay to consequences for what we do.
  - 2. Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.<sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. NKJV
- B. God desires only for us what is best for us.

1. Just as a loving father looks to the care of his children so the Lord looks to our care.
2. But often, like rebellious children we do not listen to our heavenly father and we bear the consequences of our choices.

To children with a good earthly father, I say listen.

To all here today I say, "Listen to your heavenly Father." He alone has the words that bring life.