



SERMON-TEXT DEVOTIONAL

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

TEXT || PROVERBS 25:1-29:27



HUMAN CONFLICT: Read Proverbs 25:16-28

Chapter 25-29 provides us with another collection of Solomon's proverbs similar to chapters 10:1 - 22:16. Let's consider some of these sayings this week.

- o In the same way that it is possible to have too many sweets (honey), it is also possible to be an overbearing friend (vv 16-17). Why is this good advice? How have you seen this play out?
- o Here Solomon highlights three types of people (the liar, the untrustworthy, and the insensitive) and provides a metaphor for each one of them (vv 18-20). How do these metaphors help us understand the foolishness of these characteristics?
- o The conflict that has arisen from overbearing friendship and foolish behaviour needs to be resolved and the author suggests we do that by being initiators of reconciliation with those who hate us (vv 21-22). How does Romans 5:8-11 help us understand how this works?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication



TO ANSWER OR NOT TO ANSWER: Read Proverbs 26:4-5

This saying is part of a group of sayings discussing wrong ways of increasing one's wealth.

- o Engaging a fool can lead to more foolishness (v 4). How does this proverb encourage us to pause before engaging in online discussions with those only looking to pick a fight or argue?
- o Engaging a fool can lead to insight (v 5). How does this proverb encourage us to engage with those we disagree with?
- o Wait a minute... What do these two wise sayings teach us about the nature of wisdom? What would you say to someone who uses this passage to say that the Bible contradicts itself?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication



FRIENDSHIP: Read Proverbs 27:1-10

Today we will look at an extended proverb on the topic of friendship.

- o A good friend is one who is humble (2 Corinthians 2:18) (vv 1-2). Why do we often pretend to have it all together? What kind of friends does our world need?
- o It is hard to rebuke a friend but, if we are honest with ourselves, we know we need it (vv 3-6). Do you invite correction from your friends? How can you become a person who trusts wounds from a friend?
- o A good friend is a gift (vv 7-10). Take some time to personally thank your friends for their gift of friendship today.

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RIGHTEOUS GOVERNMENT: Read Proverbs 28

Proverbs 28 speaks into the topic of government and leadership. Let's consider a few themes from this chapter.

- o We all want a leader who seeks justice, cares for the poor and maintains law and order (vv 2-5). Of the things mentioned in these verses, where have you noticed leaders falling short?
- o Recent history has seen many leaders' hidden sins been uncovered and it has led to their demise (vv 6-28; v 13a). Culturally, we tend not to trust people in positions of authority or power, how does this proverb call us as Christians to lead in our various spheres of influence?
- o How is Jesus, the king of the cosmos, the one and true leader that we all need?

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TRUST IN THE LORD: Read Proverbs 29:25-26

This section of proverbs ends with a call to trust in the Lord.

- o This proverb rings true for the believers in Galatia (v 25). Read Galatians 1:6-10. Where in your own life do you find it difficult to resist the gospels of our culture?
- o It is possible for Christians to think that our influence and impact on culture will primarily come through association with powerful and important people (v 26). How does this proverb put that idea into perspective? Also, consider Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:1-12.

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