

Sermon Notes

Proverbs 20-21-22

August 9, 2026

I. Introduction

Prov 20 warns against impulsive behavior and laziness, while encouraging integrity and careful planning.

Proverbs 21 highlights that righteous living and justice are far more valuable than religious sacrifices.

Prov 22 emphasizes that an honorable reputation and humility hold far greater value than wealth.

- a. is it possible to summarize what we've learned so far... probably not... why, because each of us is learning something unique... what's the key to learning... being teachable...
Mark 1:15... "the time promised by God has come... repent and believe the good news..."
metanoeo... *change one's mind for the better; to think differently; to reconsider*...
Luke 24:25... "how foolish you are and slow to believe all the prophets have spoken..."
- b. learning and growing often requires us to change our minds for the better... to reconsider what we thought we knew... set aside etp and find truth... requires an open heart... pray...
Prov 2... "listen closely... direct heart to understanding... wisdom will enter your heart..."
Prov 3:5... "trust in the Lord with all your heart... do not rely on your understanding..."
Prov 4:4... "your heart must hold on to my words..."
Prov 9:9... "instruct the wise and he will be wiser still... teach the righteous and he will learn..."
Prov 10:8... "a wise heart accepts commands..."
Prov 14:33... "wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding..."
Prov 24:32... "I saw, and took it to heart... I looked, and received instruction..."
John 8:31-32... "then you will know the truth... and the truth will set you free..."

II. 20-21-22

- a. Twenty
to make good choices... must deepen relationship with HS... no shortcut... He is our GPS who will consistently lead you to wise, not foolish behavior... never contradict Word...
Psa 119:105... "Your word is a lamp to my feet... a light to my path..."
Psa 143:10... "may Your gracious Spirit lead me forward on level ground..."
Prov 6:23... "this command is a lamp... this teaching is a light... instruction is the way to life..."
Prov 20:18... "plans succeed thru good counsel... if you wage war, obtain guidance..."
Prov 20:27... "the spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord..."
Isa 11:2... "Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge... will rest..."
Luke 12:12... "the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what must be said..."
John 14... "Counselor will be with you forever... Counselor will teach you all things..."
John 16:13... "the Spirit... will guide you into all truth... declare what is to come..."

when you hear *that voice*, don't ignore it... when that *great deal* feels *too good*, slow down... when there is *no peace*, pause and listen... stress and pressure not from HS...
1Kings 19:10-13... "not in wind, earthquake, fire... there was a voice, a soft whisper..."
John 14:26-27... "Spirit will remind you... peace I leave you, My peace I give to you..."
Rom 8:6... "the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace..."
Rom 14:17... "the kingdom is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit..."
Rom 15:13... "may God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you believe... by power of HS..."
Gal 5:22-23... "fruit of the Spirit is... love, joy, peace, patience..."
eirene... *tranquility; exemption from rage; security, safety, prosperity; fearing nothing from God...*

the voice of HS becomes clearer and stronger the more you practice listening...

Prov 20:1... "wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler... whoever goes astray is not wise..."

* not abstinence (3:10; 9:5; John 4:46; 1Tim 5)... drunkenness is sin... listen to HS (1Tim 4:4-5)...

Prov 20:19... "do not associate with a gossip... avoid someone with a big mouth..."

* Prov 17:27-28... "a truly wise person uses few words... fools are wise when silent..."

Prov 20:29... "glory of the young is their strength... gray hair of experience is splendor of the old..."

b. Twenty-One

our society prides itself on speed... most people don't like to wait for anything... quick results, instant wealth, overnight fame... generally not good... generally don't last... the world promotes shortcuts... gimmicks that offer fast money... God's way is different...
Josh 1:7-9... "meditate on Him day and night... then you will prosper and succeed..."
Prov 21:2... "all a person's ways seem right to him... but the Lord weighs hearts..."
Prov 21:5... "plans of the diligent lead to abundance... haste leads to poverty..."
Prov 21:22... "the wise conquer the city of the strong... bring down their stronghold..."
2Cor 3:5... "no lasting value on our own... only power and success comes from God..."
1Tim 6:10-11... "love of money is root of all evil... by craving, some have wandered from the faith... flee from this... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness..."
3John 2... "pray you prosper and are in good health... just as your soul prospers..."

don't let the world's pace dictate your life... what seem like *missed opportunities* may actually be the Lord's protection from something harmful or distracting... trust Him...
Psa 16... "I will let the Lord guide me... my heart is glad, my spirit rejoices, my body rests securely... You reveal the path of life to me... in your presence is abundant joy... and eternal pleasures..."
Matt 11:28-30 **MSG**... "learn the unforced rhythms of grace... learn to live lightly..."

c. Twenty-Two

can we talk about raising children again (studyfinds.com)... Solomon shares wisdom...
34% of parents actively dismiss advice from older adults because it feels outdated.
41% of parents reject any advice from their parents about raising kids.
71% of parents say they have totally different ideas of raising children than past generations.
85-90% of parents report feeling judged when given advice... leading them to reject outside input.
Prov 1:5-7... "let a wise person listen and increase knowledge..."
Prov 9:7-9... "correct the wise and they will love you... instruct the wise and they will be wiser..."
Prov 12:15... "a fool is right in his own eyes... whoever listens to counsel is wise..."
Prov 13:13-16... "whoever despises advice asks for trouble..."
Prov 15:22... "plans fail when there is no counsel... with many advisers, they succeed..."
Prov 19:27... "if you stop listening to instruction... you stray from words of knowledge..."
Prov 22:4... "a sensible person sees danger... the inexperienced keep going and suffer..."

not about raising perfect kids... about pointing imperfect kids to a perfect Savior...

Prov 22:6 **AMP**... "train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents]... when he is old he will not depart from it..."
2Tim 3:16... "all scripture useful... to teach, rebuke, correct, train... in righteousness..."

how do we practically train up a child... speak life (Prov 18:21)... declare God's promises over them (2Cor 1:20)... model faith (Phil 4:9)... point them to God's goodness (Matt 7:11)... pray daily (1Thess 5:16-18)... establish identity (2Cor 5:17-21)... show grace (Acts 20:32)...

got an adult child who has strayed... never too late with God (Rom 4:17-21)... pray...
Isa 49:25... "I will fight those who fight you... I will save your children..."
Jer 31:16... "keep from tears... your work shall be rewarded... children will return from enemy..."
Joel 2:25... "I will restore the years the locust has eaten..."
Luke 15... "when he came to his senses... *I'll go to my Father*... was lost, now found..."
Eph 3:20... "now to Him who can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine..."