

Sermon Notes

Proverbs 23-24-25

August 16, 2026

I. Introduction

Prov 23 is a collection of practical warnings focused on self-restraint and the dangers of excess.
Prov 24 warns against envying evil people and teaches lessons about diligence, justice, and character.
Prov 25 teaches humility, self-control, peaceful conflict resolutions, and dealing with neighbors.

- a. love this line from last week... *don't let the world's pace dictate your life*... interested in God's wisdom... God's plan... God's path... God's direction in how we live our life...
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..."
Prov 4:18-26... "path of the righteous is like the dawn... shining brighter and brighter... carefully consider the path for your feet and all your ways will be established..."
Prov 12:28... "there is life in the path of the righteous... in its path is no death..."
Matt 11:28 MSG... "learn the unforced rhythms of grace... learn to live freely..."
Mark 1:15... "promised time has come... *change your mind for the better*... believe good news..."
Gal 5:25... "let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives..."
- b. being a good parent is simply impossible without godly advice and listening to HS...
train up a child in the way he should go... but be sure you go that way yourself... *pray*...
Prov 15:22... "plans fail when there is no counsel... with many advisers, they succeed..."
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..."

II. 23-24-25

- a. Twenty-Three
lots of great advice about work and career... easy to look at others bending rules, cutting corners, cheating and lying to get ahead and think... *I should do that*... resist that urge...
Prov 23:4... "don't wear yourself out to get rich... do not trust your own cleverness..."
Prov 23:17-19... "don't envy sinners... always continue to *worship* the Lord... you will be rewarded for this... hope will not be disappointed... keep your heart on the right course..."

easy to get discouraged in our jobs... easy to feel unappreciated at work... disrespect for authority is often normal in media and entertainment... we're called to be different...
Lev 19:32... "rise in the presence of the elderly... show respect and honor your elders..."
Judg 21:25... "everyone did whatever seemed right to him..."
Rom 13:1-7... "submit to authority... one who resists opposes God... do what is good..."
Gal 6:4... "examine your own work... do not compare yourself with someone else..."
Heb 13:17... "obey your leaders and submit to them... it will be for your benefit..."

doesn't mean we stay in abusive or unethical situations... so how do we honor those in authority... especially when we face challenging circumstances or difficult people...
Psa 31:1... "I seek refuge in You... let me never be ashamed... deliver me in Your righteousness..."
Prov 4:23... "above all else, guard your heart... it determines the course of your life..."
Col 3:23-24... "work willingly at whatever you do... as though you were working for the Lord and not for people... remember the Lord gives you a reward... the Master you are serving is Christ..."
Eph 4:31... "let all bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, malice... be removed from you..."

if you feel like your career or ministry is stalled... might be time to make some changes... humble yourself... seek wisdom from HS... God wants you to prosper and succeed... if you're not... ask Him why... then trust He will lead you to the best fit for your giftings...
Psa 1:1-3... "delight in Lord's instruction... meditate day and night... bear fruit, prosper..."
Prov 18:12... "pride goes before destruction... humility comes before honor..."
Luke 14:11... "those who humble themselves will be exalted..."

b. Twenty-Four

many people misunderstand grace to be laziness... we just sit back and do nothing... everything will take care of itself... after all, God is in control, right... wrong...
Psa 90:16-17... "let the favor of God be on us and establish the work of our hands..."
Prov 10:4... "lazy hands make for poverty... diligent hands bring wealth..."
Prov 24:27... "complete outdoor work... prepare your field... then, build your house..."
Prov 24:30-34... "I walked by the fields of a lazy person... vineyard of one with no common sense... it was overgrown with weeds... as I looked and thought; I learned this lesson... a little extra sleep, a little extra slumber, a little folding of the hands... then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit..."

grace isn't an excuse to do nothing... it's power to do more than you can ask or imagine... fills us with wisdom, gifts, and ability to do what we could never do on our own... grace doesn't make us passive... it *aligns us with God's purpose*... supplies us with all things...
Acts 14:26... "they had been entrusted to the grace of God to do the work..."
1Cor 15:10-11... "I worked harder than all... yet not I... but the grace that was with me..."
2Cor 9:8... "every grace overflows to you... so you may excel in every good work..."
Eph 3:20... "glory to God... thru His mighty power in us... do infinitely more than we ask or think..."
Phil 4:13... "I am able to do all things thru Christ who strengthens me..."
2Thess 3:10-11... "those unwilling to work will not get to eat... some of you are idle..."

there's some other great verses in chapter 24 as well...

Prov 24:5... "a wise man is full of strength... man of knowledge increases his might..."
Prov 24:10... "if you do nothing in a difficult time... your strength is limited..."
Prov 24:16-17... "though a righteous person falls seven times, he will get up... the wicked stumble into ruin... don't gloat when your enemy falls or rejoice when he stumbles..."

c. Twenty-Five

have you ever had to deal with a difficult situation or person... foolish way of doing that is to be tough, assertive, confrontational... wise way is with *patience and gentleness*...
Prov 15:1-4... "gentle tongue turns away wrath... harsh, painful, careless words stir up anger... wise tongue makes knowledge pleasant... soothing tongue is a tree of life... crooked tongue breaks spirit..."
Prov 25:15... "patience can persuade a prince... soft speech breaks bone of resistance..."

when someone wrongs or misunderstands us... our natural response is to get defensive... that rarely works out well... don't want natural response... want supernatural response...
Prov 25:21-22 **TPT**... "is your enemy hungry... buy him lunch... win him over with your kindness... generosity will awaken his conscience... God will reward you with favor..."
Rom 2:4... "God is wonderfully kind, tolerant and patient... His goodness leads you to repentance..."
1Cor 13:4-8... "love is patient, kind... not rude or irritable... keeps no record of wrongs..."
1John 4:19... "we love because He first loved us... love your brother and sister..."

doesn't mean we don't correct or have tough conversations... speak truth in love... listen to their perspective... choose patience and kindness... extend grace... ask HS to lead... *pray*...
Matt 18:15-16... "if a brother sins against you... point it out privately... then to others, then church..."
1Cor 5... "judge those who are inside... God judges outsiders... remove the wicked person..."
2Cor 13... "I gave a warning... I again warn you... if I come again, I will not be lenient..."
2Tim 3:16... "all scripture useful... to teach, rebuke, correct, train... in righteousness..."
2Tim 4:2... "preach the word... correct, rebuke, encourage with great patience and teaching..."