

Message #105

Proverbs 25:8-14

God wants His people to live in a world with other people and He wants them to live in a wise manner which He has specifically spelled out in His Word.

WISE PEOPLE LEARN TO FUNCTION IN A WISE WAY WITH ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE IN ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE-RELATED SITUATIONS.

The “men of Hezekiah” (25:1) certainly knew the importance of people getting along because the preceding 250 years between Solomon and Hezekiah were years marked by a kingdom split and many internal conflicts.

INSTRUCTION #1 – A wise person will not be quick to get into arguments. 25:8

The word “haste” is one that means to be quick to do something very speedily. This instruction warns against quick strife. The last part of the verse gives a reason why: at some point at a future time, when your neighbor is putting you to shame, you won’t know what to do.

INSTRUCTION #2 – A wise person will not share secrets. 25:9-10

The word “argue” is the same Hebrew word of **verse 8**, which does have legal ramifications. The wise men of Israel suggest that instead of publicly going to court, privately go to the individual. The actual words “reveal a secret” mean don’t reveal any of the intimate details. **Verse 10** gives the reason why—because it will eventually harm the one who told the secret.

INSTRUCTION #3 – A wise person will carefully speak. 25:11

There is difficulty with what is meant by “apples of gold in settings of silver,” but whatever the imagery is, it is beautiful. Gold with a silver background has a very rich look to it and is dazzling. The point is one who can say the right thing at the right time is as valuable and desirable and as dazzling as gold and silver. The idea that we say whatever we want whenever we want will diminish the wiser we become.

INSTRUCTION #4 – A wise person will value rebuke. 25:12

The word “reprover” is one that means to argue, dispute and correct by clearly manifesting the sunlight. One who listens to rebuke will discover the person who rebuked him is very beautiful and valuable.

INSTRUCTION #5 – A wise person will faithfully work. 25:13

The wise employee is a trusted employee. The point of the proverb is that a wise employee may be trusted to carry out responsibilities such as give a message to someone.

INSTRUCTION #6 – A wise person will not falsely boast. 25:14

The word “boast” means to make a public show as a brilliant, bright light. This kind of person makes promises and predictions, but never produces.

Each of us must live in God’s world with God’s people and wise are those who honor God in the way they relate to other people.