

Message #107

Proverbs 25:23-28

GOD'S WISDOM MAY BE KNOWN AND APPLIED TO EVERY AREA OF EXISTENCE, INCLUDING AREAS OF SPEECH AND DISCIPLINE.**SITUATION #1** – God's wisdom is applied in reaction to backbiting speech. **25:23**

Two ways this proverb has been translated and applied: 1) NASV and NIV in which the north wind which brings rain is compared to the backbiting tongue which brings an angry face: 2) KJV in which the north wind drives away rain and an angry look drives away a backbiting tongue.

The latter appears to be the better translation:

- 1) The root meaning of the Hebrew "brings forth" is to twist, turn, turn around.
 - 2) Good weather tends to come from the north (Job 37:22).
 - 3) Rain in the Mediterranean area usually comes from the southwest and north wind is called by Palestinians as "the heavenly" because it brings shining sky.
 - 4) N.T. says backbiting and gossip is to be repented of and turned from (II Cor. 12:20-21).
- The point is when you are in a discussion with a backbiting gossip, a hostile look given by you can shut them up. It is not the mark of wisdom to listen to a backbiter, but it is the mark of wisdom to be enraged at him.

SITUATION #2 – God's wisdom is applied to domestic speech. **25:24**

The essence is that it is better to live in some corner on top of the house than to live with a contentious woman—a woman who always wants to fight and cause strife. This proverb is copied word-for-word in Solomon's collection (21:9). Solomon, who had many woman problems, knew the value of living in a wilderness than in a lovely home with a contentious woman (21:19).

SITUATION #3 – God's wisdom brings "good news" kind of speech to those weary. **25:25**

The most refreshing news we may receive is the good news of the Word of God, sent from far away heaven. This news will refresh and revitalize us time and time again.

SITUATION #4 – God's wisdom recognizes the impact of one righteous falling into sin. **25:26**

What the men of Hezekiah were saying is that when a righteous man falls into sin, he becomes like water that was once pure which is now troubled, tainted, polluted and ruined.

SITUATION #5 – God's wisdom recognizes the dangers of self-glorification. **25:27**

Eating too much honey will make one sick (25:16) and so will wasting too much time searching for self-glory or honor.

SITUATION #6 – God's wisdom recognizes the importance of self-discipline. **25:28**

Those becoming wise recognize that the wise life is the disciplined life. One undisciplined is open to any enemy.