

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 162 – The King's Heart Through Punished Scorners (Proverbs 21:1-11)

1. Who directs a king's heart (implied that we're talking about a good king)? **Note: God did not and does not remove freewill and control anyone's heart, including kings (II Chronicles 12:13-14).*

The Lord: *"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will"* (**Proverbs 21:1**).

- The heart, even of kings, is directed by God's word (**II Chronicles 30:12**).
- What is in the king's heart is not always the will of God (**I Chronicles 28:1-3**). When the king needed corrected, God did so through the prophet Nathan not by changing David's heart literally (**II Samuel 7:1-17**).
- To be clear, God can only change the hearts of men with His word when those men want to change (**II Chronicles 36:11-13** and **Jeremiah 13:10**). However, when one has a prepared heart (**Ezra 7:10** and **James 4:8**), God's word can easily turn that person to the right (**Psalms 19:7**; cf. **Hebrews 4:12**).

2. Do people have a hard time seeing that they're wrong?

Yes: *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts"* (**Proverbs 21:2**).

- **Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 20:6, Proverbs 30:12, and Galatians 6:3.**
- The Lord ponders our hearts (**I Samuel 16:7, Psalms 139:1-2, Proverbs 17:3, Jeremiah 17:10, Luke 16:15, and Revelation 2:23**).

3. What was more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice?

"To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice" (**Proverbs 21:3**).

- **I Samuel 15:22, Isaiah 1:10-20, Hosea 6:4-7, and Mark 12:33.**
- Sacrifices were under the Old Law and are no longer in effect (**Hebrews 10:1-18**). We have the sacrifice of Christ today (**Ephesians 5:2**).

4. How does the Lord look at high looks, proud hearts, and the plowing of the wicked?

"An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin" (**Proverbs 21:4**).

- High looks (**Proverbs 30:13** and **Isaiah 2:11**), proud hearts (**Proverbs 8:13**), the plowing of the wicked (**Psalms 10:4**), and wages of sin (**Romans 6:23**).

5. Is it better to be diligent or to make haste decisions?

"The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want" (**Proverbs 21:5**).

- **Proverbs 10:4, Proverbs 13:4, Proverbs 14:29, Proverbs 20:21, Proverbs 27:23-27, Proverbs 28:22, and Ephesians 4:28.**

6. What does God see when people get treasures by lying?

“The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death” (Proverbs 21:6).

- **Proverbs 10:2, Proverbs 13:11, and Titus 1:11.**
- The death is spiritual death (**Ezekiel 18:31**).
- *“Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me” (Proverbs 30:8).*

7. Will wicked individuals, guilty of robbery and refusing to do judgment, escape destruction?

No: *“The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment” (Proverbs 21:7).*

- **Psalms 9:16, Proverbs 22:22-23, and Ezekiel 22:29-31.**

8. Is it wise to follow the ways of man?

No, they are froward [perverse] and strange: *“The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right” (Proverbs 21:8).*

- It’s not man’s way we should follow (**Psalms 37:23, Proverbs 3:6, Proverbs 20:24, Jeremiah 10:23, and I Corinthians 4:6**).

9. Is a brawling woman fun to be around?

No: *“It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house” (Proverbs 21:9; 25:24).*

- **Proverbs 12:4, Proverbs 19:13, Proverbs 21:19, and Proverbs 27:15-16.**
- On the other hand, it is great to be with a virtuous woman (**Proverbs 31:10-31**).

10. Are wicked neighbors easy to be friendly with?

No: *“The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes” (Proverbs 21:10).*

- **Proverbs 16:29-30.** On the other hand, we’re supposed to be good neighbors (**Proverbs 3:29**).

11. Can simple [naïve] individuals gain wisdom?

Yes: *“When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge” (Proverbs 21:11; cf. I Corinthians 10:1-11).*