

He That Handleth A Matter Wisely

I. Introduction:

A. How situations are handled is very important (i.e. **Proverbs 16:14-15**).

1. Sometimes, the wrath of a ruler is unavoidable (**Daniel 3:8-20**; cf. **Exodus 34:14** and **Proverbs 28:1**).

2. However, if avoidable, think about why you wouldn't want to needlessly upset a ruler (**Proverbs 19:12**, **Proverbs 20:2**, **Proverbs 28:15**, **Romans 12:18-21**, and **I Peter 2:13-17**).

B. We are instructed of God to be wise and to walk in wisdom (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).

1. Understanding what's going on around us and how to interact using that understanding (**Amos 5:10-13** and **Micah 7:5-7**).

2. Not engaging in fruitless endeavors (**Proverbs 29:9** and **Matthew 7:6**) or situations with a sure unfavorable outcome (**Proverbs 4:13-17**; **5:1-13**; **5:20-23**).

II. Body: **Proverbs 16:20-22**

A. Think about how we can be lawfully crafty [clever], with godly wisdom, in handling some matters (i.e. **II Corinthians 12:11-21**; cf. **II Corinthians 11:8-13**).

1. Think about how Jesus used discretion because of situational awareness (**John 7:1-10**).

2. Knowing how to use circumstances, such as when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees (**Acts 23:1-11**).

3. This wisdom requires situational awareness (**Colossians 4:5-6**).

B. Wise concerning that which is good (**Romans 16:19**).

1. The kind of wisdom that delivers one from the way of the evil and guides in the way of the good (**Proverbs 2:1-20**).

2. Not learned in the way of sin (**I Corinthians 14:20**), but not ignorant to them either (**II Corinthians 2:11**).

C. Making sure the wisdom we use is not our own wisdom (**Isaiah 5:21**) or the wisdom of the world (**I Corinthians 3:18-19**).

1. Don't trust wisdom born of yourself (**Proverbs 26:12** and **Proverbs 28:26**).

2. Resort to a well-known biblical principle (**I Thessalonians 5:21**).

3. Let me give you an example. We know we have to work (**Ephesians 4:28**, **I Timothy 5:8**, and **II Thessalonians 3:10**). The world says get a job that pays well, has room for moving up, etc. The world says grab your dream job. Godly wisdom teaches us to count the cost (**Luke 14:25-33**) and to consider what value a job may have that causes you to lose your soul (**Matthew 16:24-27**), misplace your at-home responsibilities (**Ephesians 5:22-6:4**), abandon your spiritual obligations (**Hebrews 10:25**), etc.

III. Conclusion: “Every prudent [[subtle](#), [shrewd](#), [crafty](#), [sly](#), [sensible](#); Strong’s # 6175] man dealeth with knowledge [[discernment](#), [understanding](#), [wisdom](#); Strong’s # 1847]: but a fool layeth open his folly” (**Proverbs 13:16**).