

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 155 – Answering A Matter Before Hearing Through Being Friendly (Proverbs 18:13-24)

1. Is it good to give an answer before knowing what you're talking about?

No: *"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him"* (Proverbs 18:13).

- Deuteronomy 13:12-15, John 7:50-51, and James 1:19.

2. Is it important to be in "good spirits"?

Yes: *"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear"* (Proverbs 18:14)?

- Good spirits are helpful (Proverbs 17:22).
- A wounded spirit is destructive (Proverbs 12:25, Proverbs 15:13, Proverbs 18:14, and II Corinthians 2:7).

3. What do prudent, wise individuals seek?

Knowledge: *"The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge"* (Proverbs 18:15).

- Psalms 119:97-104, Proverbs 1:5-7, Proverbs 9:9, Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 15:14, Proverbs 23:23, Colossians 3:10, II Timothy 3:15, and II Peter 1:3-6).

4. Could a man gain audience with great men [in a worldly sense] by bringing a gift unto them?

*"A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men"* (Proverbs 18:16).

- Proverbs 19:6 and Proverbs 21:14.
- Consider that, those who like gifts are not the one's godly people want company with anyway (Proverbs 17:23 and Proverbs 29:4; cf. Proverbs 15:27).

5. Can someone appear to be just when they are out for their own cause?

Yes: *"He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him"* (Proverbs 18:17).

- Two examples of people who had their own cause which seemed just to them: Luke 23:1-5 and Acts 24:1-9.

6. Did the casting of lots cause contentions to cease?

*"The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty"* (Proverbs 18:18).

- The Lord made decisions through the casting of lots (**Proverbs 16:33**).
- From land to Apostles, many decisions were made through the casting of lots (**Joshua 18:6-10** and **Acts 1:15-26**).

7. How bad can things be when there are differences between brethren?

So bad that the resolution is harder than winning a strong city: *“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle”* (**Proverbs 18:19**).

- **Genesis 4:1-8, Genesis 27:41, Genesis 37:3-5, Psalms 50:20, and Matthew 10:21.**

8. Is it true that we reap the consequences of our words?

Yes: *“(20) A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. (21) Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof”* (**Proverbs 18:20-21**).

- **Proverbs 12:13-14, Proverbs 13:2-3, and Matthew 12:34-37.**

9. Is marriage a bad thing?

No: *“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD”* (**Proverbs 18:22**).

- There are times wherein marriage is to be avoided unless necessary to keep lust from causing sin (**I Corinthians 7:1-8; 25-26**).
- God ordained marriage for a reason (**Genesis 2:18-24** and **Ecclesiastes 9:9**).

10. Can a poor man be better mannered than a wealthy man?

Yes: *“The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly”* (**Proverbs 18:23**).

- It is fascinating that the poor can be so mannerly, seeing they're often despised (**Proverbs 14:20, Proverbs 19:4, and Proverbs 19:7**; cf. **James 2:1-8**).

11. Will we gain good friends by being unfriendly?

No: *“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother”* (**Proverbs 18:24**).

- There are good brethren that are there for times of adversity (**Proverbs 17:17** and **John 15:13**; cf. **Romans 16:1-4**).