

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 175 – Discuss It With Thy Neighbor Through Danger Of A False Witness (Proverbs 25:9-18)

1. If you have a cause with your neighbor, whom should you discuss that with?

Your neighbor: *“Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another”* (**Proverbs 25:9**).

- The Scriptures teach us to take our problems directly to the person we have the problem with (**Leviticus 19:17, Matthew 18:15-17, Luke 17:3-4, and James 5:19-20**).
- We are also instructed to be discreet with private matters (**Proverbs 11:13 and Proverbs 25:22**) until the time comes to warn others when that person does not repent (**Romans 16:17-18 and II Thessalonians 3:14-15**).
- When the matter is already of PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, that matter cannot be handled in private (**Acts 5:1-10, Galatians 2:11-14, and I Timothy 5:20**).

2. If you take a matter that is between you and your neighbor to others, can shame come back on you?

Yes: *“(9) Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another: (10) Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away”* (**Proverbs 25:9-10**).

- **I Peter 4:15**.
- Then, your infamy [slander] stays with you, as you become known as a person who gives evil reports about others (cf. **Jeremiah 9:4**).
- Once you’re known as a talebearer, no one would want to talk with you (**Proverbs 20:19**).

3. What is a word fitly spoken likened unto?

Apples of gold in pictures of silver: *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver”* (**Proverbs 25:11**).

- **Proverbs 15:23, Proverbs 24:26, and Isaiah 50:4**.

4. What is a wise reprover, upon an obedient ear, likened unto?

Gold jewelry on the ear: *“As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear”* (**Proverbs 25:12**).

- **Psalms 141:5, Proverbs 9:8, Proverbs 15:5, Proverbs 15:31-32, Proverbs 27:5-6, Proverbs 28:23, and Acts 8:13-24**.

5. Should a faithful messenger have a positive impact on the soul of his masters?
 Yes: *“As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters” (Proverbs 25:13).*
- **Proverbs 13:17, Proverbs 25:25, II Corinthians 7:5-7, and Philippians 2:24-30.**
6. What type of person is likened unto clouds and wind without rain?
 One that boasteth himself of a false gift: *“Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain” (Proverbs 25:14).*
- **II Peter 2:12-19 and Jude 10-16.**
7. Can a soft approach coupled with a long time become persuasive?
 Yes: *“By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone” (Proverbs 25:15).*
- Sometimes soft words are good (**Proverbs 15:1 and Proverbs 16:14**).
 - Forbearance is often necessary (**Ephesians 4:1-3, Colossians 3:13, and II Timothy 4:2**).
 - Be mindful that some people use these tactics for evil in that they patiently work on us to get us to err (**Jeremiah 5:26**).
 - Additionally, we can never use soft words or let alone matters for any time when dealing with sin (**Isaiah 58:1, Acts 20:26-27, II Corinthians 3:12 and Titus 1:10-14**).
8. Should we practice restraint when eating food?
 Yes: *“Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it” (Proverbs 25:16).*
- **Proverbs 23:2 and Proverbs 23:21.**
 - Whether it is food or anything else, be content with what you need (**Philippians 4:11, I Timothy 6:6-10, and Hebrews 13:5**).
9. Can a person overstay his or her welcome in someone’s home?
 Yes: *“Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee” (Proverbs 25:17).*
- Don’t become a burden on others (**II Corinthians 11:9**).
10. Can a false witness be harmful?
 Absolutely: *“A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow” (Proverbs 25:18).*
- **Psalms 27:12, Psalms 57:4, Proverbs 12:18, and Acts 6:9-7:60.**

