

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 176 – Confidence In The Unfaithful Through Ruling Own Spirit (Proverbs 25:19-28)

1. Is it good to depend on an unfaithful man?

No better than a broken tooth or foot out of joint: *“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint”* (**Proverbs 25:19**).

- **Isaiah 30:1-5, Mark 14:50** [cf. **John 16:32** and **Luke 22:31-32**], and **II Timothy 4:16**.

2. Is it good to bring songs to a person of a heavy heart (is joyous activity fit for times that cause heavy hearts)?

No better than adding vinegar to acid or taking away clothing during cold weather: *“As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart”* (**Proverbs 25:20**).

- Weep with the weeping (**Psalms 35:13-14, Romans 12:15, and I Corinthians 12:25-26**).
- The idea of taking clothing in times of cold (**Job 24:1-10** and **James 2:15-16**).

3. How should we treat our enemies when they are desperately in need?

“If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink” (**Proverbs 25:21**).

- **Exodus 23:4-5, Proverbs 24:17, Matthew 5:44, and Luke 10:25-32**(cf. **John 4:9**).
- The example of Jesus (**Matthew 12:30**; cf. **I Peter 3:18** and **Acts 2:32-41**).

4. If we help our enemies in times of desperate need, what result often occurs?

“(21) If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: (22) For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee” (**Proverbs 25:21-22**).

- **Romans 12:17-21**.
- This does not mean we should help someone with the motive of heaping coals of fire upon his/her head (**I Thessalonians 5:15** and **I Peter 3:9**).
- Our reward is not the result of helping them in a sense of vengeance, but our reward is still ahead of us given by our Father (**Matthew 16:27** and **Luke 6:35**).

5. For Proverbs 25:23, please consider the following points and then we'll have our question...

- The KJV reads like this: *“The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue”*. That wording seems to be saying that anger drives away backbiting tongues. However, we know that this doesn't make sense as anger leads to more problems (Proverbs 15:1; 18). The wording in the KJV is too unclear.
- A Hebrew word study (Strong's # 2342) of the word translated in the KJV as “driveth away” shows this can also mean: “formed” (Deuteronomy 32:18 and Job 26:5) or

“brought forth” (Proverbs 8:24). This makes sense as wind brings forth rain just as an angry countenance can bring forth backbiting.

- The NKJV says: “The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.” The ASV 1901 says: “The north wind bringeth forth rain: So doth a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.”

Our question: Is there any relationship between anger and backbiting?

Yes: *“The north wind driveth away [brings forth; Strong’s # 2342] rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue” (Proverbs 25:23).*

- Anger causes many problems (**Proverbs 10:12**, **Proverbs 26:20-21**, and **Proverbs 29:22**).

6. Is a wide house big enough to find peace when there is a brawling woman inside that house?

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

- **Proverbs 19:13**, **Proverbs 21:9**, **Proverbs 21:19**, and **Proverbs 27:15-16**.
- When the keeper of the home is messed up (**Titus 2:4-5**), so is the rest.

7. Is good news refreshing?

Yes: *“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country” (Proverbs 25:25).*

- **Proverbs 15:30**, **Colossians 1:3-4**, **I Thessalonians 3:1-8**, and **III John 3-4**.

8. Is it good to see the righteous falling down before the wicked?

No: *“A righteous man falling down [slipping; faltering] before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring” (Proverbs 25:26).* Cf. **II Samuel 12:14**.

9. Can you eat too much honey?

Yes: *“It is not good to eat much honey...” (Proverbs 25:27).*

- Honey is good (**Proverbs 24:13**), but not too much (**Proverbs 25:16**).

10. Is it good to glorify yourself?

No: *“...so for men to search their own glory is not glory” (Proverbs 25:27).*

- **Proverbs 27:2**, **Galatians 5:26**, and **Philippians 2:3**.

11. Are you spiritually fit if you have no self-control?

No, you are likened to a broken down and defenseless city: *“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls” (Proverbs 25:28).*

- **Proverbs 14:17**, **Proverbs 14:29**, and **Proverbs 16:32**.