

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Father's Day

These questions are for the **June 17, 2018** sermon, "Learning from the wise." Please read the sermon passage (Proverbs 25:2-27) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN ORDER TO BE A REFRESHING INFLUENCE IN THIS WORLD, ADVANCE THESE TWO SKILLS . . .

1. With regard to those who have authority over you, don't be such a know-it-all (2-3; 6-15)
 - a. We embrace the greatness and glory of God, receiving what he has revealed.
 - i. God created the heights above us and the depths below.
 - ii. Do not spend your time trying to figure out his "whys" and "hows."
 - b. In some very limited ways, kings are similar to God
 - i. Their hearts are hidden from us
 - ii. We don't always know their reasons, and we cannot predict what they will do.
 - c. Some practical advice for "subjects" under kings, and (especially) under God:
 - i. Walk in humility (6-7a)
 - ii. Go to work fully prepared (7b-8)
 - iii. Learn to keep a confidence (9-10)
 - iv. Bless the world by becoming an artist with your words (11-12)
 - v. Follow through with your promises (14)
 - vi. Learn how to "plant seeds" with your superiors, and wait for them to grow (15)
 - d. SUMMARY (13): SO REFRESHING! Discharge the responsibility that your superiors give you to do, and then faithfully (and quietly) return for your next assignment.
2. With regard to neighbors, resolve conflicts by devoting your heart to God (4-5; 16-26)
 - a. Sometimes we add to the conflicts (16-22) Reduce conflicts by . . .
 - i. Moderation, not over-indulgence (16-17)
 - ii. Careful with your words
 1. Never devious (or "Never a gossip"), (18)
 2. Never passive (19)
 3. Never careless (20)
 - iii. Active with your love. Believers should be characterized by loving our enemies!
 - b. Sometimes the conflicts come from the outside (23-26)
 - i. Harsh criticism
 - ii. Unexpected quarrels
 - c. SUMMARY (25): SO REFRESHING! You will make your biggest impact when you "hold your ground" when pressured to compromise.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: As you review the practice prescribed (under #1, "c," above), which of those principles can you improve upon in your work setting? What about with your children?
2. Based on #2, above: As you review the things YOU add to conflicts (over-indulgence, unskilled or undisciplined use of your words and "not enough actions" in your love), which of these issues trip you up the most? What would your children say? How can you become more refreshing?