

Proverbs Week #112 (11:23-27)

“The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath. There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered. He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it. He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but he who seeks evil, evil will come to him.” Proverbs 11:23-27.

How do we use the things God has given us? Each of us is unique. God created each of us according to His wisdom and He has a plan for our lives. These proverbs contrast two types of people in God’s creation. The righteous and the wicked can be compared to the generous and stingy. To the righteous comes a good return but to those who seek evil, evil will come to them.

To Learn Wisdom and Instruction: One who has set wisdom as their goal in life will seek to learn from these words. They will use the gifts and talents God bestows for His glory. Do you have a mouth? Can you give thanks to God? Do you have eyes? Can you see others when they need help? Have you learned to practice hospitality and serve others? Are you generous with your time or do you spend all your time doing just what you want to do?

To Discern Wise Counsel: Wisdom teaches us to evaluate our own lives and seek to make choices that are pleasing to God. In these verses those who seek what is good in life will find favor. I believe this favor should first be sought in terms of our daily trusting in God. He desires to be our King and Father. The way we think about Him and others makes a difference. If you don’t think you have anything to offer God or others, pray for wisdom. Pray that God will open your eyes and heart to the things He desires for you. Remember, wisdom is not just information. Wisdom also entails having skills to live a life that is pleasing to God.

Yeshua taught a parable about talents. Let me share it with you.

Matthew 25:14 “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 “To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. 16 “Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. 17 “In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. 18 “But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

Matthew 25:19 “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 “The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ 21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Matthew 25:22 “Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ 23 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Matthew 25:24 “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. 25 ‘And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

Matthew 25:26 “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. 27 ‘Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 28 ‘Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

Matthew 25:29 “For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 30 “Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.