

The Blessings and Courage of Wisdom

Proverbs 28

"A destitute leader who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no food."

-Proverbs 28:3

Why is it important that we remember the poor?

*It keeps us h_____ *It's a moral compass *It challenges c_____

*It builds solidarity *It shapes who we b_____

"Care of the poor is incumbent on society as a whole."

● The Blessings & Courage of Wisdom

1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing them, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

What is the contrast in this verse?

➤ W_____ Vs R_____; F_____ Vs B_____

Why would a person flee when no one is chasing them?

➤ They have a g_____ c_____.

In other words, the wicked are defensive even without an accusation. A person who knows they are at fault for something or believes as much may become excessive in attempts to clear their name.

How might this apply spiritually in being accountable to God?

➤ When we are not right with God we tend to a_____ Him or go the o_____ direction. (Jonah 1:1-3)

➤ Sadly, this will also take place on the day of God's judgement. (Revelation 6:15-17)

➤ Those who put their trust in God have a clear c_____ and no such fears. (Acts 24:16; Hebrews 13:18)

Lions, in most cases, fear no predators or hostile enemies. They proceed with confidence and assurance because they are bold.

What is one thing we can do to have spiritual boldness?

➤ Trust G____! Psalm 4:8; Proverbs 10:9; 1 Corinthians 4:4

2 When a land is in rebellion, it has many rulers, but with a discerning and knowledgeable person, it endures.

Notice the contrast:

Rebellion Vs Discernment; Many r _____ Vs Knowledgeable p _____

What causes a nation to be in rebellion?

➤ _____; Romans 1:18-20; Proverbs 14:34

As a result of their rebellion they find themselves cycling through many rulers, kings, or presidents. This inconsistency in leadership creates chaos which turns the people to electing petty rulers who become tyrants.

The Old Testament reminds us of the struggle when the nation of Israel split. The Northern kingdom of Israel and Southern kingdom of Judah had many kings and rulers which led to their demise when the Assyrian army defeated both the north and south.

How should the church respond when the nation is in rebellion?

➤ _____! 1 Timothy 2:1-2

We are to be discerning and knowledgeable; God can also bless an individual to provide insight, skillful action, and spiritual perception to turn a nation of sin back to God.

➤ Jeremiah 29:7; Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16

3 A destitute leader who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no food.

What is King Solomon comparing?

➤ The p _____ oppressing the p _____ and its impact.

Destitute: poor man

One would think a poor man who became a leader would have compassion on another poor man, but this is not always the case. Sadly there are poor who oppress the poor. (Matthew 18:23-35)

Notice the comparison

like a driving rain that leaves no food.

Naturally rain nourishes crops, but the difference here is a driving rain which can be harsh, mangle plants and flood the area so that the crops are destroyed.

How do people oppress the poor today?

*Unequal access to e _____

*Predatory financial practices

*Unfair labor c _____

*Housing discrimination

*Limited access to h _____

*Stereotyping

*Tax s _____

*Gate-keeping opportunity

*Regressive fines and fees

What are some ways we can help the poor?

*Show e_____

*Speak _____

*Show r_____

➤ Proverbs 29:7; 29:14; 31:9

4 Those who reject the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law pit themselves against them.

Notice the contrast:

R_____ the law Vs K_____ the law; P_____ the wicked Vs O_____ the wicked

The Mosaic law was intended to expose sin and encourage righteous living. Just before he died, Moses challenged the people of Israel to choose between life and death, good and evil. These choices and consequences still remain today.

If we choose to keep God's commandments, He will bless us. However, If we choose to disobey, He will bring punishment. This proverb reinforces that same idea.

What does it mean to praise the wicked?

➤ Calling them g_____; Isaiah 5:20

What are some ways people reject God's law?

*Refusing to honor _____

*Ignoring the needs of o_____

*Acting unjustly

*Choosing p_____ over h_____

*Harboring h_____ and unforgiveness

....but those who keep the law pit themselves against them.

It's important to note this proverb presents only two paths, praising the wicked or contending against the wicked. The question is, which one will we take?

What is one way you can be a stronger contender against the wicked?

*Speaking the t_____ in l_____

*Speaking against s_____

➤ Luke 5:32; Ephesians 4:15

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." Desmond Tutu