

JEWELS FROM KING SOLOMON'S MIND

Text: 1 Kings 4:30-32

INTRO: There is a popular legend that King Solomon secreted much of his vast treasure of jewels & gold in certain mines, & died without disclosing the location of those mines. H. Rider Haggard based a novel on that legend, & later a movie was made from that novel.

Whether that legend is true, your guess is as good as mine. But there is a fortune in wisdom & sound advice which is not hidden, but is open for all to experience and explore and benefit from.

King Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs. A proverb is a short statement of general truth, but not always of universal application. Let us look at a few of the jewels from King Solomon's mind.

I. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM...

PROV. 9:10.

A. This fear is not terror or dread. There are some who are terrified of God, & rightly so, because of their conduct.

But such fear does not manifest wisdom.

B. The fear that is the beginning of wisdom is the possession of awe, respect & reverence for God. This fear produces a holy character & right conduct.

C. There is sometimes a vast difference between knowledge & wisdom. A person may

attend various colleges & universities & attain knowledge in a multitude of subjects, yet not attain unto wisdom. He may have a string of degrees & diplomas as long as your arm & yet not attain unto wisdom. The education which leaves God out will never produce the highest form of wisdom.

II. A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN SETTINGS OF SILVER. (PROV. 25:11).

A. It has been reported that at the time of President Lincoln's assassination the city of Washington was on the verge of open rebellion. 50,000 people crowded around the Exchange Bldg., ready with knives & guns to take the law into their own hands & take vengeance on anyone whose loyalty to Lincoln was in question. Just then James Garfield, a young congressman from the state of Ohio stepped forward with a small flag in his hand and said, "Fellow citizens! Clouds & darkness are round about Him! His pavilion is dark waters & thick clouds of the skies! Justice & judgment are the establishment of His throne! Mercy & truth shall go before His face! Fellow citizens! God reigns, & the Government at Washington still lives!" The effect was tremendous. The crowd dispersed. The crisis was ended. A word fitly spoken...

B. Hugh Latimer had the privilege & duty of preaching to an audience that included Henry, VIII. He spoke out with clarity about lust & sinfulness. The king said if he preached that way the next Sunday, his head would come off. The following Sun-day, Latimer stood in the pulpit & said: Hugh Latimer, thou art this day to preach before the high & mighty prince Henry, King of Great Britain & France. If thou sayest one single word that displeases his majesty he will take off thy head." Then he continued, "Hugh Latimer, thou art this day to preach before the Lord God Almighty, who is able to cast both body & soul into hell, and so tell the king the truth outright." So he did, & instead of losing his head he gained the king's respect. A word fitly spoken...

C. Of course, the best examples of words fitly spoken are the words of Jesus Christ when His enemies joined forces to try to ensnare Him or silence Him. "Is it lawful to pay tribute to Caesar?" "In the resurrection whose wife will she be?" "Who is my neighbor?"

III. HE WHO IS SLOW TO ANGER IS BETTER THAN THE MIGHTY AND HE WHO RULES HIS SPIRIT THAN HE WHO TAKES A CITY. (PROV. 16:32).

A. No passage of Scripture gives a blanket condemnation of anger. Paul says, "Be angry & do not sin"(Eph. 4:26). That is not a

command to be angry, nor a command not to be angry. It is a command to control your anger so that it does not cause you to sin.

B. There is a time & a place for anger, like when Jesus drove the money-changers out of the temple. But there is no time or place to sin. We must learn not to lose our temper-- that is, not to lose control over it.

C. A friend has written:

When I have lost my temper, I have lost my
reason, too.
I am never proud of anything which angrily I do.

When I have talked in anger & my cheeks are
flaming red,
I've always uttered something which I wish I hadn't
said.

In anger I have never done a kindly deed or wise,
But many things for which I feel I should apologize.

In looking back across my life & all I've lost or
made,
I can't recall a single time when fury ever paid.

--Edith Marie Lemon

IV. KEEP YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE, FOR
OUT OF IT SPRING THE ISSUES OF LIFE. (PROV.
4:23).

A. In Scripture, the heart is the seat of the emotions, the intellect, & the will. We must guard our thoughts. We must carefully channel our emotions. We must bring our wills into harmony with the will of God.

B. What is our life? It is the result of the thoughts we think. It is the product of the things we love & the things we hate. It is ultimately the consequence of the decisions we make, the exercise of our will.

C. Life is good. Life is great. Life can be forever. Quality life forever. But we must learn to guard our hearts--our thoughts, our loves, our wills.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 10, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 4, 2005