

# PROVERBS

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Exerpts from Chapters 12 and 13

FIRST, A PROVERB  
NOT FROM  
PROVERBS:  
MATTHEW 7:3-5

- Why does Jesus offer this proverb at this point in the sermon?
- How does it relate to the rest of the sermon? Is it just an afterthought?
- Why do we incline to think of how badly others need wisdom?
- Who are our favorite recipients of our imaginary wisdom?

# PROVERBS 12:15

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise"

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- What does this mean? Why is our confidence in a matter itself a reason for caution?
- If any fool always thinks he is right, how can we avoid being found a fool?
- What counsel do we heed, and how do we practically get it? What does it mean to "heed" counsel?
- Can you think of a fresh example? *When was the last time you changed your mind?*

# PROVERBS 12:23

"A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of the fools proclaims foolishness"

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1. What does this mean? Why is it prudent to conceal knowledge? What are some possible situations?



2. "I don't have a filter" "I say it like it is" "I don't mince words" "I'm brutally honest": What is the speaker of these phrases warning us?



3. Why does it gratify us to share knowledge?



4. Can you think of a real recent example?

# PROVERBS 12:25

"Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad"

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What does this mean? Don't be anxious and depressed? What is the useful directive?



What are our sources of anxiety, and how often do we return to them daily?



Why is our source of "a good word?"



Can you think of a real recent example?

# PROVERBS 13:7

"There is one who makes himself to be rich, yet has nothing:

... one who makes himself to be poor, yet has great riches"

- This one's a bit of a riddle! What are some possible meanings?
- What is a common theme between meanings?
- What is our mundane application?

"Good understanding gains favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard"

## PROVERBS 13:15

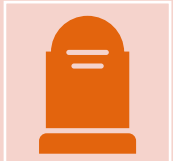


- What does it mean?
- Is it hard to be faithful? Why?
- How is it hard to be unfaithful?
- What should we remember when we consider unfaithfulness? Isn't this one of life's great challenges - to forego the easy now in favor of the greater reward later?
- What is our present personal application?

# PROVERBS 13:18

"Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored"

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What does this mean? Why is correction painful and unwanted?



What are some active sources of correction in your life?



Why do baseball umpires never heed correction? What lesson can we draw from this?



How does it bring honor to heed correction? What is our present application? When was the last time you saw someone heed correction?

# PROVERBS 13:19

"A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, but it is an abomination for fools to depart from folly"

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What does this mean? Is it a riddle? What is the contrast, and what is the encouragement?

What kind of accomplished desire is in view?

What is the contrast of the behavior of the fool?

What accomplished desire would you use as an example - past or future?