

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

How to Be Good at Good News and Bad News
Selected Proverbs

Slide 2:

Proverbs 3:9-12 (ESV)

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Proverbs 10:16 (ESV)

The wage of the righteous leads to life,
the gain of the wicked to sin.

Proverbs 10:25 (ESV)

When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more,
but the righteous is established forever.

Slide 3:

"There she sits, an elderly spinster, sweet, placid...or so you think. Yet her mind has plumbed the depths of human iniquity and taken it all in a day's work. She lives in St. Mary Mead...a little town. It's extraordinary, she knows the world through the prism of that one village and its daily life. By knowing the village so thoroughly, she seems to know the whole world."

The Body in the Library

Slide 4:

"Miss Marple is a little white-haired old lady with a gentle appealing manner - Miss Weatherby is a mixture of vinegar and gush. Of the two, Miss Marple is much the more dangerous."

Murder at the Vicarage

Slide 4:

I. Define the Terms

II. Understand How They Teach Us

III. How to Be Good at Either

Slide 5:

(Good News/Prosperity)

Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.

(Bad News/Adversity)

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Slide 6:

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

Prosperity and Adversity are the 2 seasons when we are MOST LIKELY to lean on our own understanding

Slide 7:

Cannot define the terms specifically because it depends on culture, era, context, etc.

Prosperity: Getting what we want

Adversity: Not getting what we want, or getting what we don't want

Slide 8:

"Do not be afraid - His grief he will not forget; but it will not darken his heart, it will teach him wisdom"

Aragorn

Slide 9:

(Good News)

The wage of the righteous leads to life,
the gain of the wicked to sin.

Prosperity has a way of confirming our way (understanding) of life

Prosperity closes us from teaching

Slide 10:

(Bad News)

When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more,
but the righteous is established forever.

Adversity has a way of making us question our way (understanding) of life

Adversity opens us to question teaching

Slide 11:

How to Be Good at Either?

Go to the cross, and stay there until you are healed.

James 1:9-10 (ESV)

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

Slide 12:

In prosperity we use the Gospel to be humbled

In adversity we use the Gospel to be exalted

Slide 13:

God ordains all

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have someone read Proverbs 3:9-12, Proverbs 10:16, 25
2. What have you learned about Wisdom? How would you describe wisdom to a friend or neighbor?
3. What does it mean to prosper or have adversity in today's world, where you live?
4. Explain how these have been true in your own life:
 - a) Success confirms what we already think and who we already are.
 - b) Hardship makes us question what we already think, who we already are.
5. How are each of those both opportunities and dangers for us?
6. How does the Gospel teach us correctly in either season (of hardship or plenty)
7. Prayer and praise