



Doing Life Well – More Walk Less Talk

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BIG IDEA – Discipleship isn't just a talk with Jesus... it's a walk!

scripture focus - [Proverbs 17:3](#) Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

Proverbs is THE book that defines wisdom and makes it come alive with sayings and common situations that we all face in life.

But you know what? **The whole book inevitably points to Jesus - the summary and embodiment of wisdom!**

If you read or listen to Jesus words, you'll find that his very life matches the words he spoke. Following Jesus is more than just a talk with Jesus, the Bible describes discipleship as a walk. Wisdom would agree - more walk, less talk. Let's discover how God wants us **to apply** His word to do life well.

The practicality, the "how to do life" does not just show up because we know the principles of wisdom, it becomes life-changing, transformational in the application the **doing** of what God says to do.

It seems unfair that we know this about ourselves. **What we think and how we process all the attitudes of our heart does tend to show up in our behaviors. However, it seems that pondering on evil and scheming thoughts show up much faster than good intentions. Why is that?**

We are what we think?

There is an unusual Proverb that shows up about **pining for the rich, longing to be like them or with them.** But a very often used quote comes out of this proverbial illustration.

[Proverbs 23:6-7](#) Don't eat with people who are stingy; don't desire their delicacies. They are always thinking about how much it costs. "Eat and drink," they say, but they don't mean it.

The New Living translation tries to bring out the original Hebrew meaning to an odd phrase in verse 7. **“They are always thinking about how much it costs.”** King James translation gives us the exact Hebrew to English word for word, **“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”**

The reason NLT and other translations do this is because the word for “think,” in Hebrew is **“shaar,” to calculate.**

“He is not the man his mouth speaks or declares him to be, but what his heart thinks; which is discovered by his looks and actions, and by which he is to be judged of, and not by his words.” Gill’s Exposition of the Entire Bible.

This proverb about avoiding the rich because of wanting more or wanting to become like them. The rich may be stingy, **but it also gives us amazing insight into our own lives and the way we can think about doing one thing, but our actions betray us.**

The warning is that the rich, though actually stingy, **can appear to look generous and may even want to be generous,** but in truth they are **calculating the cost** and comparing that to what they can **get from you rather than freely giving to you.**

This is difficult because from what we think, what we say and what we do can be in sync which helps us establish a consistent character.

Or our thoughts, words and actions can be out of sync which sends mix messages to our family, friends and co-workers.

Let’s look at four reasons it may be difficult to synchronize or align our thoughts to words and then our behaviors. God wants us to listen and obey. Or, if you prefer, learn then practice.

1. **We feel we need it now. The struggle of waiting** for answers or results.
 - a. [Proverbs 20:21](#) An **inheritance obtained too early in life** is not a blessing in the end.
 - b. [Proverbs 21:5](#) Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but **hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.**
 - c. W. Somerset Maugham writes, “The most useful thing about **a principle is that it can always be sacrificed to expediency.**”
2. **We want to avoid adversity.** We don’t like it when it gets tough, uncomfortable or painful. Yet, adversary may be the quickest route to change.
 - a. [Proverbs 24:10](#) If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small.

- b. [James 1:2-3](#) Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
 - c. [Romans 5:3-5](#) We can rejoice, too, **when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.** And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.
 - d. **“A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor.”** – Franklin D. Roosevelt– Without facing adversity, one cannot develop the skills and resilience needed to navigate life's challenges.
 - e. **Advise and counsel him; if he does not listen, let adversity teach him.”** – An Ethiopian proverb
3. **The massive overload of messages.** Singularity of focus for the **long arc of life is tough.** Having clarity takes limiting or simplifying what we listen to. Constantly filling our lives with noise, activities, and busyness will make it difficult to both hear God, see God at work and do what He says. **I have three grandgirls, believe me, obedience is harder when they are exhausted!**
- a. [Proverbs 4:25-27](#) Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.
 - b. [Matthew 6:31-33](#) So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Doing what God says to do isn't as easy and straightforward as we think!

4. **Process and a path.** It isn't a straight path. I love the fact that God wants us to walk with Him. And when it comes to **doing** what he says it takes practice! Maybe a better way to say the phrase, **“practice makes perfect,”** is **“practice makes progress.”**
- a. [Proverbs 3:6](#) Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. The Hebrew word for show or direct you is **“yashar”** - to be smooth, straight, or right. And the word for **“path”** is actually plural **“paths.”** Even the word “path” is interesting because the Hebrew word is **“orach,”** path, but the word came from word, **“arach,”** which means **to wander or journey.**
 - b. [Proverbs 4:25-27](#) Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.
 - c. Angela Terris, Artist, Coach, writes, “perfection can rob you of being in the present moment.”
 - d. **“Two footsteps do not make a path”** – Nigerian Proverb

Our mission here at Candlewood Church comes from Jesus final words, He said “go and disciple” all nations. The word Jesus used in Matthew 28:19 for disciple is **“mathéteuó” which means both BE a disciple and MAKE a disciple.**

This brief three-week series in Proverbs shows us one of the most critical parts of **doing life well.** It’s getting wisdom and applying it to our everyday lives.

Proverbs isn’t really a “how to book” at all. The basic premise, the summary of all that is in the 31 chapters is this:

Know Jesus and follow Jesus. That’s it.

Listen for God, listen to God and obey God.

This is being a disciple. This is for anyone who says they believe in God, but they must also **do** what God says.

Everything else is an aid to that simple, core message.

I was reminded last week that the devil believes in God, knows God, hears God, talks with God. The devil knows the Bible better than we do. Yet, the devil lies, steals, deceives and kills. The devil’s knowledge has never changed his behaviors.

For us, it’s not just about believing in God or even knowing Him and His Word, the Bible. It’s about following and obeying.

Wisdom is applied knowledge, but obedience is applying truth, it is doing, not just thinking about it. Obedience is the hardest part of following Jesus.

Wisdom means we have **more walk, less talk.**

If God has been prompting you about spending more time with him. If you would like to take the next step from believing in Jesus to following Jesus and obeying what He says – then join me in prayer.

NOTES

Scriptures

[Proverbs 17:3](#) Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

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[Proverbs 15:33](#) Fear of the LORD **teaches wisdom**; humility precedes honor.

[Proverbs 29:19](#) Words alone will not discipline a servant; the words may be understood, but they are not heeded.

Further Notes for Study

[Disciple Discipline same word?](#) – Mitch Kruse, Author, Speaker

Discipline and disciple share the same root word, meaning learner. Whether we are leading our children, our teams, or our employees in the marketplace, discipline is paramount. Discipline means that our job is to get ourselves out of a job. When we make disciples, we know we have achieved success when those we parent or coach are making disciples who are making disciples. The key to this multiplication is discipline. Solomon's track of discipline has four turns: teach, train, test, and transform. Each turn must be navigated, or discipline will not make a full lap of wise conflict management, which will result in relational wreckage (see Proverbs 5:23).

mū sar — discipline, instruction

lamad – to exercise in, learn

Teach is defined as “I do. You watch.” We inspire, model, and explain wisdom to our children who retain it. Humility toward God is the first step of being teachable: **“The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor”** (Proverbs 15:33). Jesus continually taught His disciples.

Train can be stated as “I do. You help.” Training equips disciples with the tools to be successful, assimilating transferrable skills, one step at a time. Solomon revealed: **“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it”** (Proverbs 22:6). Jesus trained His disciples by bringing them alongside to help advance His Kingdom.

Test is translated as “You do. I help.” Solomon observed: **“The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart”** (Proverbs 17:3; 27:21). God tests us in order to refine us. Jesus tested His disciples by giving them an opportunity to apply what they had learned.

Transform means that we correct the impurities that rise to the top during the testing process. This results in “You do. I watch.” We release our children to be adults who make disciples. Solomon noted correction is ineffective by using words alone: **“A servant cannot be corrected by mere words; though he understands, he will not respond”** (Proverbs 29:19). We correct through three strategies: positive reinforcement, offering a reward for the desired behavior; negative reinforcement, removing an existing benefit for behavior contrary to what is desired; and punishment, bringing consequences for repeated undesirable behavior (see Proverbs 23:13-14). Jesus transformed His disciples and then released them to build His Church.

When you teach, train, test, and transform disciples, you will not be the one doing so, rather it will be Christ in you.

[Proverbs 17:3](#) Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

[Proverbs 27:21](#) Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised.

[Wisdom of Discipleship](#)

Discipleship is when one person pours God's words and ways (God's wisdom) into another person to help them know and follow Christ and that person pours into a third person and so on and so on. Here we see it beautifully illustrated in a family. A father is teaching his sons what his father taught him. That's three generations of discipleship. That's three generation of studying God's Word and living God's ways.

Key Themes in Proverbs

Here is a general summary of some key themes in the Book of Proverbs:

1. The importance of wisdom and understanding.
2. The contrast between wisdom and folly.
3. The value of seeking knowledge and understanding.
4. The benefits of living a righteous and virtuous life.
5. The consequences of foolishness and wickedness.
6. The importance of humility and integrity.
7. The role of discipline and hard work in achieving success.
8. The significance of good relationships and friendships.
9. The fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom.

3 Week Series: Doing Life Well

Week 1: Wise Wit or Wacky Woes?

Week 2: NO DAD JOKES HERE

Week 3: More Walk Less Talk