

## **Proverbs 20**

**Title: Wisdom for Daily Living: Integrity, Discipline, and God's Sovereignty**

### **I. The Danger of Intoxication and Foolish Choices (20:1)**

**Proverbs 20:1** *"Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise."*

- Intoxication clouds judgment.
- Wisdom requires self-control.
- Anything that masters us can lead us away from God's will.
- Guard your mind and decisions.

### **II. The Wisdom of Avoiding Conflict (20:2-3)**

#### **A. Respect Authority (v. 2)**

- Rulers possess authority from God.
- Reckless rebellion invites trouble.

#### **B. Avoid Unnecessary Strife (v. 3) *"It is honorable for a man to stop striving..."***

- Not every disagreement requires a response.
- Peacemakers demonstrate maturity.
- Choose peace over pride.
- Learn when to walk away from conflict.

### **III. The Reward of Diligence (20:4)**

**Proverbs 20:4** *"The lazy man will not plow because of winter..."*

- Excuses lead to poverty.
- Preparation determines future harvest.
- Work faithfully even when conditions are difficult.
- Invest today for tomorrow's blessing.

#### **IV. Drawing Out Wisdom (20:5)**

**Proverbs 20:5** *"Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water..."*

- Wisdom often lies beneath the surface.
- Understanding comes through thoughtful inquiry.
- Ask good questions.
- Listen carefully before speaking.

#### **V. Integrity Is Rare but Precious (20:6-7)**

##### **A. Many Claim Goodness (v. 6)**

- Character is proven, not proclaimed.

##### **B. The Blessing of Integrity (v. 7)**

- God blesses the righteous and their families.
- Faithfulness is more valuable than reputation.
- Integrity leaves a godly legacy.
- Be the same person publicly and privately.

#### **VI. Justice and Discernment (20:8-10)**

- God values honest judgment.
- Dishonest business practices are an abomination to Him.

**Proverbs 20:10** *"Diverse weights and diverse measures, They are both alike, an abomination to the LORD."*

- Conduct business honestly.
- Treat others fairly.

#### **VII. Character Revealed by Actions (20:11)**

**Proverbs 20:11** *"Even a child is known by his deeds..."*

- Actions reveal true character.
- Conduct speaks louder than words.
- Develop habits that reflect godly character.

### **VIII. God Gives Understanding (20:12)**

**Proverbs 20:12** *"The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made them both."*

- God is the source of understanding.
- We depend on Him for wisdom and discernment.
- Pray for spiritual insight.

### **IX. The Blessing of Hard Work (20:13)**

- Excessive sleep leads to lack.
- Diligence leads to provision.
- Be faithful in your responsibilities.
- Avoid laziness and procrastination.

### **X. Honest Speech and Wise Counsel (20:14-19)**

- Deception and gossip destroy relationships.
- Wise counsel brings value and stability.
- Speak truthfully.
- Avoid spreading rumors.

### **XI. Honoring Parents (20:20)**

**Proverbs 20:20** *"Whoever curses his father or his mother..."*

- God places great importance on honoring parents.
- Dishonor leads to spiritual darkness.
- Show respect and gratitude to parents and spiritual mentors.

## **XII. Trust God's Timing and Justice (20:21-22)**

### **A. Ill-Gotten Gain Fails (v. 21)**

### **B. Leave Revenge to God (v. 22)**

**Proverbs 20:22** *"Wait for the LORD, and He will save you."*

- Refuse retaliation.
- Trust God's justice.

## **XIII. God's Guidance in Human Life (20:23-24)**

- God directs the steps of man.
- Human understanding is limited.

**Proverbs 20:24** *"A man's steps are of the LORD..."*

- Seek God's direction daily.
- Walk in humility.

## **XIV. Think Before Making Commitments (20:25)**

- Rash vows create problems.
- Wisdom considers the cost before committing it.
- Be careful with promises.
- Follow through on commitments.

## **XV. Wise Leadership and Discipline (20:26-30)**

### **A. A Wise Leader Discerns Evil (v. 26)**

**B. The Spirit of Man (v. 27)** *"The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD."*

### **C. Mercy and Truth Preserve Leadership (v. 28)**

### **D. Strength and Experience Both Have Value (v. 29)**

### **E. Discipline Produces Character (v. 30)**

- Lead with wisdom, mercy, and truth.
- Accept God's correction as part of spiritual growth.