

Proverbs 27

*Wisdom for relationships, self-knowledge, and faithful stewardship.

*Three threads run through Proverbs 27: how we relate to others, how we see ourselves, and how we steward what we've been given.

I. Humility and Self-Assessment (vv. 1-2)

- **v. 1** Do not boast about tomorrow; you don't know what a day may bring
(James 4:13-16)
- **v. 2** Let another praise you, not your own mouth

II. The Weight of Folly and Anger (vv. 3-4)

- **v. 3** A fool's wrath is heavier than stone and sand
- **v. 4** Wrath is cruel and anger overwhelming, but **jealousy** is harder to stand before

III. Honest Love and Faithful Friends (vv. 5-10)

- **v. 5-6** Open rebuke is better than hidden love; wounds from a friend are faithful, but an enemy's kisses are profuse
- **v. 7** The satisfied soul despises honey; to the hungry, even bitter things taste sweet
- **v. 8** A man who wanders from home is like a bird who wanders from its nest
- **v. 9** The sweetness of a friend's counsel, like perfume or ointment
- **v. 10** Do not forsake your friend or your father's friend; a neighbor nearby is better than a brother far away

IV. Wisdom and Prudence (vv. 11-13)

- **v. 11** A wise son brings his father joy and an answer for critics
- **v. 12** The prudent sees danger and hides; the simple go on and suffer
- **v. 13** Do not co-sign recklessly for a stranger (Pro. 6:1-5, 11:15, 20:16)

V. Social Awareness and Home Life (vv. 14-16)

- **v. 14** Loud blessing early in the morning counts as a curse (insincere or **ill-timed flattery**)
- **v. 15-16** A quarrelsome wife is like constant dripping on a rainy day, and restraining her is like restraining the wind

VI. Iron Sharpening Iron (vv. 17-22)

- **v. 17** *Iron sharpens iron*: friendship that refines character (the high point of the chapter)
- **v. 18** Whoever tends to the fig tree eats its fruit; whoever serves his master is honored
- **v. 19** As water reflects the face, the heart reflects the man
- **v. 20** Sheol and Abaddon (hell) are never satisfied, nor are the eyes of man
- **v. 21** The crucible tests silver; a man is tested by the words spoken about him
- **v. 22** Folly cannot be pounded out of a fool, even in a mortar

VII. Faithful Stewardship (vv. 23-27)

- **v. 23-24** Know the condition of your flocks; riches do not last forever
- **v. 25-27** Provision follows diligent care: the hay, the lambs, the goats' milk sustain the household

Takeaways:

1. **Humility**: Let others speak of you; you don't control tomorrow.
2. **Honesty**: True friendship is willing to wound for the sake of the other's good.
3. **Refinement**: Character is sharpened in relationships, not isolation.
4. **Diligence**: Stewardship means knowing the state of what's entrusted to you.