

Sermon Notes

Proverbs 11-12-13

July 12, 2026

I. Introduction

Prov 11 contrasts the paths of the righteous and wicked; integrity and deceit; humility and pride.

Prov 12 contrasts wisdom and foolishness, demonstrating how our choices shape our destiny.

Prov 13 contrasts the life trajectories of the wise and the foolish; the value of correction vs mocking.

- a. blunt question... do you really believe you need God's wisdom to make good choices... the answer reveals where you're placing your trust... in yourself or in God...
Isa 30:31... "your ears will hear Him... a voice will say... *this is the way you should go...*"
Psa 32:8... "I will instruct you and show you the way to go... I will give counsel..."
Prov 3:5-7... "trust in the Lord... do not rely on your own understanding..."
Prov 14:12... "there is a way that seems right to a man... but it leads to death..."
- b. many people ask God for the big stuff... miracles, impossibilities... but think they can handle the ordinary, everyday choices on their own... that's a recipe for a bad choice...
1Kings 3:7... "You have made me king... but I am a child who doesn't know his way..."
John 15:5... "remain in Me and produce much fruit... without Me you can do nothing..."
2Cor 3:5... "do nothing of lasting value on our own... only power and success come from God..."
Gal 5:25... "live by Spirit... follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives..."
- c. notice... we can do nothing on our own... nothing... not just about depending on God in the tough stuff... it's about learning to seek Him in every area of life... the moment you realize you can't do it... is very moment that grace begins to flow... pray...
John 15:4-8... "I am the vine, you are the branches... if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you will produce much fruit... ask whatever you want and it will be done for you..."
2Cor 12... "My grace is sufficient... power flows in weakness... when I'm weak, then I'm strong..."

II. 11-12-13

- a. Eleven
there is a difference between good advice and Godly advice... wisest man ever chose to have Godly counsel in his life... wise person recognizes they don't have all the answers...
1Kings 4:2-6... "Solomon reigned... these were his officials, priests, deputies, advisers..."
Prov 11:14... "when there is no counsel, people fall... in multitude of counselors, there is safety..."
teshuah... *salvation, deliverance, help, victory*...
Prov 15:22... "plans fail when there is no counsel... with many advisers they succeed..."
Prov 19:20... "listen to counsel and receive instruction... so you may be wise in life..."
Prov 27:9... "the heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume..."
Eccl 4:13... "better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who refuses all advice..."

prideful person doesn't listen to advice... humble person seeks it out...
Psa 25:9... "He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them His way..."
Psa 37:11... "the humble will inherit the land and enjoy abundant prosperity..."
Psa 138:6... "the Lord cares for the humble... but keeps His distance from the proud..."
Prov 11:2... "when arrogance comes, disgrace follows... with humility comes wisdom..."
1Cor 8:2... "if anyone thinks they know anything... don't know as they ought to know..."
Jam 4:6... "God resists proud... gives grace to the humble... humble yourself, He will exalt you..."

Godly counsel is one of the reasons why planting yourself in church is so important... mature believers are like having another set of spiritual eyes and ears... many times they can confirm what God is telling you... even though your relationship with God might be very good... still need safety, wisdom, accountability of other believers...
Psa 92:12-14... "righteous thrive... planted in the house of the Lord..."
Eccl 4:12... "a person alone can be defeated... two can resist... cord of three is not easily broken..."
1Cor 5:4... "when you are assembled in the name of Jesus there is power..."
dynamis... *power for performing miracles; financial, moral, physical power*...
Col 3:16... "teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives..."

b. Twelve

many of the subjects in Proverbs are repeated over and over... chapter 6 dealt with money and giving... chapter 12 shows us again how to make good financial choices...
Prov 12:9... "better to be a nobody... than pretend to be a somebody and have no food..."
Prov 12:11... "hard worker has plenty of food... person who pursues worthless things lacks sense..."
Prov 12:14... "wise words bring many benefits... hard work brings rewards..."
Prov 12:24... "work hard and become a leader... be lazy and become a slave..."
Prov 12:27... "lazy hunter doesn't roast his game... diligent will get precious wealth..."

better to live modestly and be able to pay your bills... than buy things you can't afford or live in a home that causes you to drown in debt... don't compare your life to others...
Rom 12:2... "do not conform to this world... be transformed by renewing your mind..."
1Cor 4:7... "what do you have that God hasn't given you... why boast as if you didn't receive it..."
2Cor 10:12... "don't compare yourself with those who commend themselves... when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves... they are not wise..."
Gal 6:4-5... "let each examine his own work... and not compare with someone else..."

Solomon had it all... it wasn't enough... it was unsatisfactory, vapor, a mere breath... fleeting, elusive, empty... it was vanity... don't seek after stuff... seek after Jesus...
Prov 3:13-18... "blessed is the man who finds wisdom... nothing you desire can equal her..."
Eccl 1... "vanity of vanities... vanity of vanities... all is vanity..."
Eccl 5... "he who loves money, wealth, income will not be satisfied... this is vanity..."
Matt 6:25-34... "seek first His kingdom... all these other things will be added..."
Phil 2:3-4... "don't be selfish... don't try to impress people... take an interest in others..."
Phil 4:11-13... "I have learned to be content... with a little or a lot..."

c. Thirteen

a person's spiritual maturity can often be seen in how they accept correction and discipline... someone who is wise is open to correction and instruction... a fool is not...
Prov 12:1... "to learn, you must love discipline... it is stupid to hate correction..."
Prov 12:15... "a fool is right in his own eyes... whoever listens to counsel is wise..."
Prov 13:13-14... "whoever despises advice asks for trouble... those who respect a command will be rewarded... wise people think before they act... fools display stupidity..."
Prov 13:18... "disgrace come to those who ignore discipline... accept correction and be honored..."
Prov 13:20... "walk with the wise and become wise... companion of fools suffers harm..."

God rewards those who are humble... stop being defensive... look for truth, throw the rest away... say *I don't know* more... own up to mistakes... keep your heart teachable... pray...
Prov 9:9... "instruct the wise and they will be wiser... teach the righteous and he will learn more..."
Prov 18:12... "before his downfall a person is proud... humility comes before honor..."
Prov 27:6... "wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy..."
Matt 23:12... "exalt yourself and be humbled... humble yourself and be exalted..."

Read Proverbs 11-12-13 every day this week and choose between humility and pride.