

Prov. 19:20, 25, 27: Listen to advice & accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future . . . ²⁵ Strike a scoffer, & the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, & he will gain knowledge . . . ²⁷ Cease to hear instruction, my son, & you will stray from the words of knowledge.

Intro: How many of you like to be told what to do? (Home; Job; Church) Children do you like to be told what to do? Have you ever resisted being told what to do, but once you listened, you realized: Wow, this is a better way to do this – I’m glad I listened! (My step-father; Mercy & “J,K,L”; Church help from other pastors; Simeon Trust; Listening to preaching)

Eric Lane: Proverbs is a book of advice & instruction for teachers or parents to set their children on the right road. There is no quick way to wisdom; as he grows the child must listen to all he needs to know. [Listen & feel pain - suffering]

As God’s children, seek advice & listen to instruction to grow in wisdom & knowledge.

1. Listen To Advice & Accept Instruction (Discipline)

Prov. 19:20: Listen to advice & accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

a. Listen to advice: Exod. 18:13-24: The next day Moses sat to judge the people, & the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, & all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" ¹⁵ & Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶ when they have a dispute, they come to me & I decide between one person & another, & I make them know the statutes of God & his laws." ¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You & the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. ¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, & God be with you! You shall represent the people before God & bring their cases to God, ²⁰ & you shall warn them about the statutes & the laws, & make them know the way in which they must walk & what they must do. ²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy & hate a bribe, & place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, & of tens. ²² & let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, & they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, & all this people also will go to their place in peace." ²⁴ So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law & did all that he had said.

b. Listening to advice takes humility: Part of humility is realizing you don’t know everything. Part of humility is realizing you always have more to learn. Part of humility is understanding that you can always learn something from others. Humility is realizing your way is not always the best way!

- **Num. 12:3:** Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.

c. Accept instruction: John Kitchen: The other means toward wisdom is “discipline

[instruction].” The word describes learning through both exhortation & example.

- **We should seek this: Prov. 2:1-5:** My son, if you receive my words & treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom & inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight & raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver & search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD & find the knowledge of God.

d. Prov. 19:20: Listen to advice & accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future: If you listen to advice & accept instruction, you will gain wisdom. You must know God to gain wisdom. **GOSPEL!**

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2. Listen To Reproof And Learn From Discipline

Prov. 19:25: Strike a scoffer, & the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, & he will gain knowledge.

- **Prov. 21:11:** When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge.

a. Scoffers need striking, yet they still don’t learn: Prov. 9:7-8: Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, & he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

- **Prov. 13:1:** A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

- **Prov. 21:24:** "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

b. The simple or naive can grow in prudence when they see the scoffer punished:

Prov. 19:25: Strike a scoffer, & the simple will learn prudence; **Prov. 21:11:** When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise

Deut. 17:12-13: The man who acts presumptuously by not obeying the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel. & all the people shall hear and fear and not act presumptuously again. **(Acts 5)**

- **1 Tim. 5:20:** As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

John Kitchen: (commenting on the simple or naive): They are gullible & silly. They love to exercise their willfulness & act irresponsibly. They tend to be thoughtless toward others . . . They waste their life chasing after what does not matter . . . The “naive” [or “simple”], while on dangerous ground, are still reachable & able to be rescued from their folly.

c. The wise man of understanding will grow in knowledge when he is reproved: Prov. 19:25: reprove a man of understanding, & he will gain knowledge; **Prov. 21:11:** when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge.

This is what we all should want to strive to be – the wise person who listens to & grows from rebuke. All they need is a word or correction, & they change! No begging, no pleading, no striking with the rod, no spanking, no discipline of others to make them fear: just a simple word of rebuke.

John Kitchen: What does it take for each of these folk to learn? The “scoffer” is beyond learning. Yet, he must be disciplined anyway. The reason is found not in the hope that he will respond, but that others around him will. When the “naive” see the “Strike” that a “scoffer” draws for his attitudes & actions, they “may become shrewd.” The “naive” are capable of learning from someone else’s mistakes. There is, however, an even higher & more desirable level of learning. The “one who has understanding” learns wisdom by a simple word of reproof. One word, the tone of voice, the expression of another’s face – all these are the hair trigger that sets in motion his ability to “gain knowledge.”

d. God’s discipline is good & loving, & we should learn from it: Heb. 12:6, 11: For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, & chastises every son whom he receives." . . . ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- **Rev. 3:19:** Those whom I love, I reprove & discipline, so be zealous & repent.

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3. Don’t Refuse To Listen To Instruction

Prov. 19:27: Cease to hear instruction, my son, & you will stray from the words of knowledge.

a. Don’t be a hypocritical hearer of the Word only: John Kitchen: The point is best understood, if we read the first line as a straightforward command: “Cease listening, my son, to discipline.” As such it is a shock which makes one want to read on to discover how the father who has been so intent on selling his son on wisdom could say such a thing now. The second line then gives the answer – “only to stray from the words of knowledge.” In other words, “Stop sitting there, listening to godly instruction, only to turn around & do whatever it is you feel like doing!” . . . Instead of being a command to discontinue listening to sound “discipline,” the verse is an exhortation to stop hypocritically listening to it & then flaunting it, to go one’s own way.

- **Jas. 1:22-24:** But be doers of the word, & not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word & not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself & goes away & at once forgets what he was like.

- **Lk. 6:46-49:** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' & not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me & hears my words & does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep & laid the foundation on the rock. & when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house & could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears & does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, & the ruin of that house was great."

- **Mk. 7:6-8:** "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "'This people honors me

with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' You leave the commandment of God & hold to the tradition of men."

b. Refusing to listen & obey instruction ends in disaster: Prov. 19:27: you will stray from the words of knowledge; **1 Ki. 12:1-18:** Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. ² & as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. ³ & they sent and called him, & Jeroboam & all the assembly of Israel came & said to Rehoboam, ⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father & his heavy yoke on us, & we will serve you." ⁵ He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away. ⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" ⁷ & they said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today & serve them, & speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." ⁸ But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him & took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him & stood before him. ⁹ & he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?" ¹⁰ & the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,' thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. ¹¹ & now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'" ¹² So Jeroboam & all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, "Come to me again the third day." ¹³ & the king answered the people harshly, & forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, ¹⁴ he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." ¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. ¹⁶ & when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. ¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, & all Israel stoned him to death with stones. & King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

c. Listen to godly advice in the church community: We need each other. We need the church. We need pastors/elders. We need solid Christian books. We need the Word of God. We need the Holy Spirit! We need confessions of faith. We need godly friends. We need godly church family: - **Heb. 10:24-25:** let us consider how to stir up one another to love & good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, & all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

d. Consider Jesus: Lk. 2:40, 51-52: the child grew & became strong, filled with wisdom. & the favor of God was upon him . . . he went down with them & came to Nazareth & was submissive to them . . . Jesus increased in wisdom & in stature & in favor with God & man.

- **Matt. 4:3-4:** the tempter came & said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- **Heb. 2:10:** For it was fitting that he, for whom & by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

- **Heb. 5:8-9:** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. & being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him

- **John Piper:** "He learned obedience" means that Jesus moved from untested obedience into suffering, & then through suffering into tested & proven obedience . . . Jesus was not merely moving toward a completed, tested perfection, but toward fulfilling a perfect salvation for us sinners.

- **Phil. 2:5-11:** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. & being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him & bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, & every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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Christ Jesus Listened And Accepted Instruction
My King – He's So Great And Needs No Introduction
He Grew In All Wisdom And Stature Production
Never Needed Reproof But Caused All Sin Obstruction
God's Holy, Pure Temple Who's Under Construction
Never Strayed From God's Word But Obeyed In Perfection
Yet Died As A Curse Bearing All God's Rejection
Then Rose Up Alive – Our God Resurrection
Now By Faith Alone You Are Just Through Connection
Through Union With Christ To God Your Protection
Now In Humility You Gladly Receive His Correction
And Grow In All Wisdom Showing Forth Your Election
All Because Of Christ Who Gives Life New Direction
He's Your All And Your Boast And Your Life Resurrection!