

I. Review of Proverbs 17:1-3

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn back to Proverbs 17. If you will remember, we started Proverbs 17 last week, and it was a great chapter. We looked at three really good verses from a practical way.

In verse 1, I remember last time, it really focused on a dry morsel with quietness is better than all the things that you have in your life with strife. We talked about the concept of being content, being content with what you have, being satisfied with what you have. I think that is probably one of the key areas in America that we struggle with so much.

I have a list of things over the years that my father in the Lord, Mel Sobaka, was a master at putting little phrases together that spoke so much power in them that just related to life. I will never forget when he would talk about people being satisfied with where they are at. I understand as a Christian, you are never really satisfied where you are at, but you are satisfied in the sense that you are waiting on God and you are doing it, and you are not getting out of control with it.

He said, "You folks think that the grass is greener on the other side of the hill," which was a popular expression back then. But then he would come back and say, "Yeah, but wait until you see the water bill." There is so much truth in that in life. He used to say one time, "You know what, I know that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, but sometimes He only gives it to you one hamburger at a time." There is so much truth and wisdom in those statements because it deals with the aspect of just us being content.

Then we looked at verse 2 and the aspect of getting a full reward, how that it says in that passage, one of those little places tucked away, that a wise servant over a son that causes shame will reign. I showed you how that from a practical or a doctrinal aspect, this shows you that somebody in the Tribulation or maybe an Old Testament saint that did what is right will reign more than a child of God who has a glorified body and had everything that he had, but did not do what God wants him to do and winds up at the Judgment Seat of Christ naked and in shame.

Then we looked at verse 3 and probably one of the greatest times that we have had together for a long time on understanding the aspect of growing through adversity, looking at the things that are in our life that are negative. "The finer's pot for silver, and the furnace for gold." We looked at why God's people go through some of the things that they go through, some of the things that they struggle with.

Then one of the greatest examples I could ever have given you that really shows you the value of you getting God's wisdom and understanding, how that when you go through the fire and the trials as a child of God down here, and sometimes you go through it because of the fact that you are doing what is right and you are living for God, and God takes that in and makes you better. But sometimes we go through those things because of our own stupidity and our disobedience to God.

I told you last week, and I want to re-emphasize this because it is such an important thing before I move on. I thought about it all week. I emphasized last week that God loves us so much that when we get out of fellowship with God, He will put us through the fire here. He will put us through the fire of chastisement here so that when we stand someday before God at the Judgment Seat of Christ, that fire never touches the works that we do. In other words, He puts you through the fire down here to get you right so the fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ will never touch you when you stand before God. It is an incredible concept. Absolutely incredible concept. So many people today, God's people, just do not get that.

II. Proverbs 17:4: False Lips and Naughty Tongues

Now today, we are going to look at another section of verses here, verses 4 through 7. We are going to make some comments on it, talk about some things. We will kind of switch back and forth so you can get an understanding of how to put notes in your Bible on this doctrinally and inspirationally.

Proverbs 17:4A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

Doctrinal Context: The Tribulation Period

Just so you know, doctrinally here, and I want you to be able, and I come back and forth on this because many of you are putting your notes in as we go along, and at least I want you to get the context down. Doctrinally here, the context will be the Tribulation Period. You need to understand that.

We know that the book of Proverbs fundamentally is about a wise man and a foolish man. We know that from a practical standpoint, that is you and me; we can be wiser or foolish. But in the book as it is written doctrinally, we know that that is a reference to the nation of Israel.

Matthew 25:1-10 talks about ten virgins. We know those virgins to be Tribulation saints. The Bible says that five are wise and five are foolish. There is the precedent verse that shows you that the Tribulation saints go right back to the book of Proverbs doctrinally as the wise man and a foolish man.

The wise man, inspirationally, will be you or me who follows the Word of God. The foolish man, inspirationally, will be the ones who do not. Doctrinally, the wise man will be the nation of Israel who follows and stays with the Bible. The foolish ones will not. Of course, it is laid out for you in Matthew 25:1-10, and that is a Tribulation context as most of you already know.

All the material I gave you last week about the finer's fire and all that, doctrinally, that is all the nation of Israel. Last week, I just wanted to make some key points from a practical standpoint, drop the hammer on some things. But in essence, that whole thing last week was dealing with the nation of Israel. That refining fire of last week that we saw will be the fire of trying of Israel through the Tribulation Period.

If you do not have the references down for that, put in your notes:

** Ezekiel 22:18-22*

- * Proverbs 27:1
- * Isaiah 31:9
- * Isaiah 48:10
- * Jeremiah 11:4

All of those verses will show you Israel being purified as a nation through a refining fire that makes them the nation that God wants them to be.

Remember, in your Bible, you have two sets of vessels that God uses. He talks about those vessels as either being vessels of honor or vessels of dishonor. Point being, God uses them either way. When Israel was a vessel for God's honor, God used them that way. But when Israel got away from God and became a vessel of dishonor, God used them that way too. Not to their issues and problems, but God always gets the honor and glory out.

It is true with you and me. When you give your life to God and you serve God faithfully and you become a vessel of honor, God uses it that way. But when you decide you are going to do your own thing, get out of fellowship with God, go your own way, God will come down and through the hand of God in your life, through chastisement of that fire, He will use it to get honor and glory to show other people. You do not get away with whatever you just want to do. So it is very key. Of course, Romans 9:22-23 will be Israel as the vessel. Then of course, in 2 Timothy 2, down in that chapter, you will find where you and I are likened to the second vessel.

The wicked doer, doctrinally, in Proverbs 17:4, that "giveth heed to false lips" will be the people who hearken to the Antichrist, doctrinally, and go after him. The ones that align with him. You will find that these people are listed all the way through the Bible. For you Bible students who really want to get exact on it, you will actually find these nations listed for you in Psalms 83:1-18. They line them up, Revelation 13 with the ten nations that line up with the ten horns of Daniel's image and all that stuff.

Practical Application: Hatred for God's Word

Now, in a practical way, this will be any person who has nothing but hatred in his heart for the things of God, in particular, the Word of God. Look at the word "naughty." That is a word that we do not think much of anymore, do not really use much anymore. It is like much of the English language. It has been degenerated down from its original meaning, which is a very powerful meaning in the Bible, and you see it.

Of course, when you study the development of any language, I do not care what it is, you will find that language has an origin, a beginning. Then language goes through a development process until it gets to its apex, its highest point, its purest form. Then because all history follows the first and second law of thermodynamics, things left in themselves began to fall apart. Then that language at some point in time begins a downward spiral into degeneration. That is what happened to all languages, but in particular, it is what happened to the English language.

The English language starts around 900, very basic, very, very hard to put it together. It is made up of several different ethnic language groups, and it began to develop, and you see it by 1200, 1300, 1400, it begins to take some kind of shape. By the time it gets to the 1600s, the English language is at its purest form. The English language at that point is at the top of its apex, and it is in its purest absolute form. Of course, from that on, slowly, it begins the degeneration to where we are at today. The English language today has lost much of its real impact in its perfect meaning.

*There is a book you ought to read sometime. It was a book written by Dr. William Lloyd Phelps. He was the professor of English literature at Yale around 1900. Actually, I could not believe it, his book is still in print. In fact, I think that if you go online, there is a place that you can download it free without buying it, I think, if I saw it right. I do not know how to do that, but I think it is on there. But his book was called *Reading Your Bible*. It was originally published by Macmillan House in New York, and on page 10, 12, and 13, he stated this. Now, he is the head literature professor of English at Yale in 1900.*

Here is what he said: "The King James 1611 Authorized Version is the most important book in all of English literature." He is making this statement because not only was it God's Word, but he understood the development of the English language and why God picked 1600 to put out His final Bible in the purest form of language that there was. He said this: "No English in all the world is equal to that found in the Authorized Version." He went on to say, "Whether the original text was inspired or not, I have never had any doubt in the divine inspiration of the King James 1611 Authorized Version laid out in the purest form of the English language."

That was his professional opinion on it. Anybody knows that the language of that time, many times it is called the Elizabethan English. Many times it is called a Puritan English because of the Puritans. Many times you are going to find that the great classics of Shakespeare and all the great classics of literature, they are classics not just because of who wrote them and what is said, but they are classics because of the style of English that was used. Shakespeare was a contemporary of your King James Bible if you do not already know that.

But over time, as our language degenerated, words lost their meaning. Today, the average person looks at the King James Bible, and you know what their biggest gripe is? Their biggest gripe is that it has too many archaic words, too many words that are outdated, too many words that they do not know the meanings on. Like that is God's fault. Americans are probably the most inept people when it comes to understanding their own language. They do not understand the structure of language. They do not understand the history of their language. They do not understand that apex when their language was at its purest point. So they look at something like the King James Bible, and because they see words that they do not understand anymore, they think the Bible is out of date. The Bible is not out of date. The English language is just so corrupt and despicable and so degenerated that it has lost its purity.

I mean, I cannot understand how hard it would be for a foreigner to come to America to learn our language because you realize that probably 60% of our language is slang words. Can you imagine a Chinese guy coming over and somebody saying, "Hit the road, man"? Can you

imagine what would be going through his head? "Don't bug me, man." I mean, our language has turned into an absolute cesspool of things that just in its degeneration. Over time, these words lose their import.

I have told you many, many times the absolute importance of understanding that the key to your Bible, hands down, the key to your Bible are the words in your Bible. You change those words. I talked about virgins a little while ago out of Matthew 25. Now there is a classic example. There are a lot of people out there that believe Matthew 25 about the ten virgins, five were wise and five were foolish. In the story of that, it looks like somebody gets left behind when a rapture takes place. People who have no clue about the Bible will follow this text in Matthew 25 to prove that you can lose your salvation as a Christian because in that passage, it looks like somebody does, and they do. But the key to that passage is just one word. It is the word "virgins" plural. Because wherever you find the word "virgins" plural in the Bible, the context is always going to be Tribulation saints. Now the church is likened to a virgin singular. One little difference between an "s" on one word and not an "s" on the other word separates your Bible into two different dispensations. Now who would believe that? Nobody with a college education would believe that. But I am telling you, the key to your Bible are the words.

In our bookstore, we sell a dictionary called Webster's Dictionary, the 1828 edition. Noah Webster was a saved man. He wrote most of the curriculum for the early school system. His dictionary was the first dictionary. We sell it in a bookstore because for those who really want to get down, I mean, there is studying the Bible and then there is studying the Bible. When you really want to get down to your own language and you want to find out the key words, I mean, I have people all the time come over and see me one on one, and they will have a list of three or four words that they do not understand in the Bible. That is how you learn them. But Webster's 1828 edition, not only does he give you the definition of the words that are so degenerated today, in most cases, he actually gives you the reference in the Bible that shows it, him being a saved guy and him understanding the importance of the Bible and the Word of God. I cannot impress upon you enough the importance of keeping the pure words and their definitions alive in your life.

In Zephaniah 3:9, the Bible says when the Lord comes back and He establishes the millennial reign of Christ, He is going to establish for the nation of Israel a pure language. God is a stickler on languages being pure when He does something. Of course, it is a great concept.

Now you take the word "naughty." It has been reduced as a cute little word with no real terrible meaning along with it. You know, "He was a naughty girl." "He is a naughty guy." We do not use that for, you know, a serial killer, "But he was naughty, Your Honor." No, it has lost its punch. Yet in the Bible, the word "naughty" is only found six times in your Bible. In the Bible, the word "naughty" is always associated with the Antichrist and his crowd.

You will find it in:

- * Proverbs 6:12*
- * Proverbs 11:6*

- * James 1:21
- * 1 Samuel 17:28
- * Proverbs 17:14
- * Jeremiah 24:2

You will find that the reference, the context, will always be connected one way or the other to the Antichrist. It is a reference to a wicked man who does evil, speaks evil, sows evil, and in all that he does, destroys all that God is trying to do. When people listen to him, his bad speech, his bad doctrine, when they give ear to it or give heed to it, like Proverbs 17:4 says, they are going to follow that line of teaching and thinking, and he has no defense against it because he does not have God's wisdom or understanding.

The Bible College Movement and False Teaching

I thought this week of a great illustration to give you to illustrate this, and there are many I could do. But since we have been talking about over the last couple of weeks, the history of us as Baptists and where our roots and J. Frank Norris and how it all ties together and all of those things, I thought since that is so fresh in our minds, the greatest example to illustrate this would actually be the Bible College Movement of the 60s and the 70s and the 80s. It is a time where most of you were not born.

You remember I told you that when J. Frank Norris left the Southern Baptist Church, he started the World Baptist Fellowship. He started his own Bible College within that fellowship. A little bit later, about 1949, as some of you now know, who have done their own study, somebody had a book here today on J. Frank Norris, who showed me that book over here, got a good book on it by Lewis Eminger. When they split, the Baptist Bible Fellowship started. They started their own Bible College. Then from that point on, you had all kinds of fellowships started. You had Southwide, you had East West, you had North South, you had everybody had a fellowship. They kind of split off and became their own little identities known as a fellowship of believers. Everyone, and they were made up of churches, maybe 100, 200 churches, and it grew.

Every one of those fellowships at some point in time started a Bible College, every one of them. You know them today, the BBF was the first one down in Springfield. Later on, it developed into a BBF out of East, out in Boston. Then it became a BBF West with Jack Baskin out in California. We had down in Tennessee, Tennessee Temple. We had Jerry Falwell with Liberty Baptist. We had Pacific Coast Baptist. We had Cedarville, Ohio. We already had Bob Jones University, but then it spun off into Pensacola Christian College. Jack Hiles, who in Hammond, Indiana, who had a church back in his day of 10,000 people, he started his own Bible College out of his fellowship. You are going to find that you already had Moody Bible College. You had right up the road here, you had Calvary Bible College, and then you had Downtown to Midwest Theological Seminary. They were everywhere.

Every fellowship started their own college. Hundreds of thousands of kids from the 1950s up to even including today, hundreds of thousands of kids were sent to a Bible College or a university

to learn God's Word, and instead came out losing the very Bible that they went in with. It was one of the most phenomenal things you ever saw in your life. I am telling you, there was not a good one in the bunch. They may have had good things, but at the end of the day, they all had the same problem. The reason for that, I do not have time to get into it this morning, but catch me sometime on a Thursday night and I would be glad to elaborate on that for you. But there was not a good one in the bunch.

Here is what part of the problem was. They were never local church controlled. In the Bible, God's program is a local church. When you step outside that local church, then you are not under the same rules, and you can do whatever you want to do. They brought in college professors from a wide variety of different places. Those college professors, most of them were retreads who failed in ministry. They never built a church. Most of them had not won a soul to Christ in 35 years. It was a lot like taking a one-legged man and putting him in charge of teaching Olympic running. They severely handicapped.

But the real problem was because there was no filtering process. There was no church. There was no structure. There was no watchdog overlooking it. These professors came in from every walk of life. They paid more attention to their credentials of where they were educated than they did what they believed about the Bible. Hey, I have been there. I have seen churches that look for a pastor when they candidate a guy. They wanted to know where he went to school, how much education he had. They never asked him one question about Bible. They never asked him one question, "What are you going to teach this church?" They never asked him one question about how many souls he won. It was all about the academics. This was the mindset during that time.

These professors came in and they absolutely destroyed the kids' faith. Many of them were amillennial. Many of them did not believe the rapture. Many of them were Calvinist. Many of them were completely out of touch with the real mainline, Baptist doctrines of the Bible. But the institution was so big. They had lost the concept of a local church mentality that keeps a structure. It was now a school. It was now a university. It was now a college. With all that came all the different things that comes along with that. There was no control on the influence of the teachers.

Now, I have to just say this for a moment. Back when the Reformation took place, the Roman Catholic Church got its back broke, and God kicked the door open to the great movement of the missionary movement of everybody coming to the United States and England. It was just the King James Bible going around the world about four or five times. Greatest period in church history. Immediately after that happened in Europe, the Catholic Church started what was commonly called known the Counter Reformation. The Counter Reformation was started by the Jesuit movement.

You know in the Catholic circles today, you know the Pope, Pope Francis. Pope Francis, to everybody's mind, is the Pope that everybody looks at who is in charge of the Roman Catholic Church. That is an absolute smokescreen. The real controller of the Catholic Church is the Black Pope. I am not talking about the color of his skin. I am talking about the Jesuit general who is over all of the militant intellectual arm of the Roman Catholic Church. That was much like

Obama thinks he is in charge of America. In some things he is. But you know who really is in charge of what goes on in America that you never hear about? It is the deep dark CIA guys that nobody ever hears the stories of what they do. That is the Jesuit movement.

The Jesuit movement came into being to stop the Reformation by beginning a Counter Reformation. What they did was is that these Jesuit priests, feigning becoming Protestants, went into Protestant seminaries in Europe, graduated from those seminaries, then took churches, and slowly over the next hundred, 200 years began to take those churches right back to Rome. It was a movement that they infiltrated every university in Europe. By the next 200 years, Europe is back into apostasy.

When a Jesuit movement comes into the United States, it comes in through New Orleans. New Orleans is the city for Orleans over in France, which was a Jesuit hotspot. They centered there, and Biola University was their key spot. That was their headquarters in America. They tried to get America back in the Revolutionary War and before that, but it never worked. So they went through an educational mindset just like they did in Europe. If you do not think that that movement infiltrated into the Bible colleges in this country, you do not have a clue. You better be careful crossing the street. You are going to get hit with a car. The devil never misses a trick to destroy that Bible when he has one of the greatest single arms that you have ever seen to do that. It was the Oxford movement in Europe that later came on into this country.

I could take you on national television right now and show you the guys and the people that most people say people think are the greatest conservative people standing for values you ever saw in your life. If you just listen and watch very carefully, you will see the Jesuit t-shirt underneath where they are shooting tie. They have infiltrated everything, and they certainly infiltrated the Bible colleges.

They would have old preachers, good men, come into these Bible colleges, and every day they would have a chapel service. The tapes that you can find of Bob Jones Senior preaching are the chapel services. You do not find many when he was out on the road just tearing it up because those churches were small churches. Back then, they did not have the elaborate systems that we have to tape. But all you get from him is the chapel services. All of these Bible colleges every morning had chapel services, and they would bring in good preachers, and these preachers would come in and really preach. They wanted to hold the kids accountable, so they had good guys come in, started every morning with a hellfire damnation message and preaching.

I had kids that I knew who were part of that, friends of mine who were in the ministry now who were part of that. They told me that they would go to class, and the rest of the day, those professors would rip down, tear apart everything that preacher said. That is what they did. The verse says, "giving heed to false lips and giving ear to a naughty tongue," naughty now being explained to you.

People think I am against higher education. I am really not. I think that if you get a chance to get a college education and you really need it, great. I think that education is good. I think that education without salvation is damnation. But I think that education in itself, higher education, is a good thing. Where I have the problem with higher education, it is when it comes to Bible

colleges. Sometimes I am painted with a broad brush and things like that. This is simply not true. If you are going to be a doctor, I want you to be the best student you could be. If you are going to be a lawyer, I want you to be the best student you can be. If you are going to be a dentist, be the best student you could be. I want that. But when it comes to the Bible, this is where I have a problem.

Somebody asked me one time, "Why do you have such a problem with Bible colleges?" My answer is simple. I have five reasons why I am against Bible colleges. There are five fundamental lies by which Bible colleges are built on. I will give them to you.

1.) The first lie that they teach to these kids when they go in is that the Greek and Hebrew are the key to the Bible. Nothing can be farther from the truth. I do not have time to elaborate on it this morning, but I would be glad to at some point on a Thursday night or whatever. But that is simply not true.

2.) The second lie that they put out is only the original manuscripts were inspired. Let me just say something to you. There is not one verse in the Bible anywhere, any place, any time that says the original manuscripts were ever inspired. Now I believe they were, but you cannot go to the Bible to foot that. Do not go over there where it says, "All scripture was given by inspiration of God," because the original manuscripts were not scripture. When it says, "All scripture was given by inspiration of God," that is not talking about the original manuscript; they were not in scripture form. That is something else.

3.) The third thing, you cannot get a perfect translation of the Bible. That is what they teach these kids. They do not teach that the King James Bible has got errors in it. They teach all the Bibles got error in it. They teach you that the only way you can ever know the Bible is by learning two languages that nobody speaks anymore, and then you finding out what your Bible says by that. Now imagine God giving you a Bible that He is going to hold you accountable for what you read or what you do not read and know and what you do not know. Then putting that key to that Bible in a language that you could never master both languages in your life. Then He is going to judge you by it. It is ridiculous.

4.) The fourth thing is that they teach these kids at higher education, biblical scholarship, if you will, holds the keys or is the key to learning the Bible. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth again.

5.) The last thing that they teach is the King James Bible has many errors in it.

Those are the five lies that Bible colleges put out that will destroy a young man or a young lady's faith in that Word of God. I have seen it over the last 45 years of my life. I have seen those go in. I have seen them go into those institutions with the Bible. I have seen those shame young men who had a great future, had a great ability, come out, and somebody stole their Bible from them. It is just that simple.

The Jesuit movement was so profound in the Christian education as it was in secular education. To this day, people who graduate from a Bible college or a secular school, they will look back and they will say with loving affection, "Well, yeah, Baptist Bible College or Tennessee Temple.

That is my alma mater. That is where I came from." They look at that school as my alma mater with affection. But if you look at that word "alma mater," it simply means "alma" means virgin and "mater" means mother. It means virgin mother because everything you get was started with a group of people who wanted to bring you back, yes, to the virgin mother. We are just too stupid to see that today.

Now Bible colleges are non-biblical. The first time you find a Bible college in the Bible is Acts 19. The first time you find it, the school of one Tyrannus. Those guys are teaching against the teachings of Paul. The first time you find an institution of higher learning getting together to put the Bible together, you are finding teaching somebody the Bible outside a local church, it is against the Word of God. God's institution for learning the Bible is a New Testament church.

You will find it, most Baptist churches that have a program to learn the Bible like Dr. Ruckman's or like what we have here, they are not called a Bible college. They are called a Bible Institute. They are not set up where you can dial in to Luther Rice or you are dialed in to somebody else over here. That is an apostate. It is local church orientated. It is taught by men who were in that church, who everybody knows what they believe. It does not vary from the doctrine. It stays with the truth, and young men and young ladies get taught the Bible. Bible colleges are non-biblical, so they produce a non-biblical Christianity. It is just that simple.

We are going to finish up probably, maybe not this year, but maybe next year, we will finish up our people ministry. We are up there in 2 Chronicles now, I think. The farther we get into it, the faster it will go because once you get out of the Old Testament, you get out of the stories, and now you are dealing with more principles. But once we get finished with that, whenever we do, when we started our church here, we started a three-year Bible Institute program. Most of you who are all in the mail today went through that Institute. When we get done with that, probably the next year, we will re-institute that three-year Bible Institute and bring everybody else through that wants to come through to get up to speed on it. That is what local churches do.

So Bible colleges and that mentality, they are based on the lies and the false teaching that kids will listen to. They will lend their ears to, and it appeals to the number one problem of man, the old nature. That is the fact that as Satan said, in Isaiah 14, "I will be like the most high God." It plays to the old nature of all of us that we want to be smarter than God. Boy, you give man that opportunity, and he will cloak that in a religious apostasy, make it look like it is the real deal. When people cannot have the wisdom and understanding to discern it, they listen to it, they hear the false lies, they hear everything they say, and they give heed to it.

Characteristics of Liars

Five things that you want to understand about liars and lying. There are more things I have observed over the years in dealing with people.

1.) A liar is always boastful and extravagant with what he says or she says. It is never just a fact. It is always embellished with everything that is on. The standard joke is that you know how to tell when this guy is lying, know how his mouth moves. I mean, sometimes they get that bad.

2.) *The worst lie and the most dangerous lies are the ones we tell ourselves and really believe to get what we want in life. Sin will be like many different tools. You go into a tool shop, and you can find a tool to do whatever job. You can find a sin that will lead you anywhere you want to go. But lying is the one handle that will fit every one of those tools. There will be no sin without lies.*

3.) *There is no worse lie in all the world, not that lies are any worse than other lies, but there is no worse lie in all the world than the lies being told about God and His Word. If you want people to believe something that they normally would not believe, just put it into the realm of Christian higher education and lie to them, and they will believe it. The "Yea, hath God said" society.*

III. Proverbs 17:5: Mocking the Poor and Calamity

Proverbs 17:5 *Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.*

Doctrinal Context: The Nation of Israel

Again, doctrinally, just so we can get it all straight here, this will be a reference to the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel right now is the scourge of all nations on earth, have been for the last 3,000 years, will be right up to the coming of Christ, and then that all changes in the millennium.

You are going to find that in Matthew 5, you find the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount shows you the poor spiritual condition of the nation of Israel, poor. I mean, just really destitute. You will look in Matthew 25:32, one of the seven judgments in the Bible is the judgment of the nations. At the judgment of the nations, God actually judges the nations, it is called the judgment of the sheep and the goats there. God actually judges the nations how that they helped the nation of Israel during the Tribulation Period or how they did not. It is a thing where to them that is where salvation, one of the ways that salvation comes in the Tribulation. You get left in a rapture, you have not heard a clear presentation of the gospel, we talked about that Thursday night. You go through the Tribulation Period, if you find yourself helping the Jews, Bible says God puts you right into the kingdom. You do not help the Jews and go against them, go right into the lake of fire.

You see, God's fundamental principle with Israel was found in Genesis 12:3 where He says, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee." In Romans 9 and 10, a great question is asked there, where you find about God is dealing with the nation of Israel. We saw it in Romans 9, 10, 11 a couple of weeks ago when one of our guys up in Lincoln asked that question, Mitch did. I showed you Romans 11:1, God asked the question, "Hath God cast away his people?" And the answer is, "Certainly he hath not." Romans 11:25 says, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." And then so all Israel shall be saved.

Right now, Israel is destitute. Right now, and in the Tribulation Period, the book of Proverbs, she is going to be destitute. The people who make fun of her, mock her, give her a tough time, or are glad at the calamities that she goes through during that period of time, God is going to judge

them. Most people miss certain premier moments in the Bible. Romans 11:25-26 really shows you that we are disposed to understand our relationship to the nation of Israel of the church. Many churches today do not like the nation of Israel. All the nations on the earth are turning their back on the nation of Israel. One of the reasons why we are facing what we are facing in America and around the world is because of the world doing exactly what this verse is saying they are doing.

Over in John 19:27, you find a really incredible concept. Christ is on the cross. We know from our former studies that the Apostle John is a type of the Christian, a type of the church. We know that from all the other things that we have studied about him. We also know that Jesus' mother Mary is a type of the nation of Israel. We know that very clear in the Bible. While Jesus Christ is hanging on the cross, and we are actually coming to an end of a dispensation, we are coming to the end of God dealing with Israel and then moving into the church. So on that cross, we are faced with the end of the dispensation of God dealing with the nation of Israel anymore and moving to the church, even though there are some technical things that have to happen. But fundamentally, that is where you are at.

When Christ is hanging on that cross, and He knows He is going to die and go back to heaven and no longer be here, He looks at the woman who is His mother, who is a type of the nation of Israel. He looks at the man, John, who was a type of the church. You know what He says? He says, "Woman, behold thy son!" He gave His mother to John for the watch care because He was going to die on the cross. You know what that means? That means that we as the church, type of John, have the watch care of the nation of Israel during the church age. He gave His mother to John, a type of the church. From that point on, the Bible says that he took her in and he took care of her. Our job, your job and my job in the church age, is not to be ignorant with God concerning Israel. We as the church have the watch care for the nation of Israel. Bible says that they will be your enemies. They will be your enemies. But for the gospel's sake, you are not their enemy. Why? You have understanding and wisdom. So it is an incredible thing when you look at this verse doctrinally.

Inspirational Application: Standing Up for the Weak

Now look at the same verse inspirationally. This is a reference to a man who makes fun of poor people, mocks them, is glad when a calamity befalls somebody who is a fool. The Bible says that that "shall not be unpunished." In life, we say what goes around comes around. We all know what that means.

When you understand the concept of Philippians 4:16, where it says, "whatever state you are in, therewith to be content," and you get the concept of contentment down like we did last week, talked about it. When you understand one of the greatest doctrines in the Bible is the doctrine of standing in state. It has to be paramount in your life to ever really go anywhere with God to understand that great doctrine. But when you understand what states you are in, and I am not talking about Missouri, I am talking about the state you are in right now when you are in the flesh, and you understand you to be content with that, you realize that poverty is not always a bad thing. Poverty becomes a bad thing to us who have everything and do not want to lose it.

Because to too many of us, poverty is a terrible thing. Because to us, poverty is not about you and God, it is not about being content. Poverty is about us losing all the money, the big houses, and the material possessions that we have. America lives in fear of that.

In my life, I have always tried to stick up for the little guy who could not stick up for himself, especially in the Bible, but just really in life. I was eating at a Panera one time a couple of years ago, and I was sitting there by myself, I was eating, and there was a kid three tables over there, and I could tell that he was not a very popular kid in school. He was the type that gets bullied a lot. Across the table from him were three guys and two girls who obviously knew him. He was sitting there by himself, and those boys obviously wanted to show off for those girls. They were saying things to him. They were throwing things in his food as he was eating. The kid obviously was not able to defend himself in any way, shape, or form. He was sitting there, and I felt sorry for the kid. These guys were just giving it to him and laughing, and the girls were giggling like, "Oh, you are my hero, you are such a tough guy," and all that stuff.

I took it about as long as I could. So I, you know, probably done one of my part. I could have been in jail because the kid was probably underage, but I did not really care. I walked over to the table and I said, "Look," I said, "I have been sitting here eating my dinner and my lunch, whatever it was. This little guy over here is not bothering anybody. Now you have got three guys here, and he is all by himself. Obviously, you are all bigger, tougher, stronger, and more men than he is. But I want to tell you something. I have had it. Maybe you want to start bullying somebody your own size." They just shut up, man. Then I went back and got my food, went over and sat down with that kid. I just finished eating and talking to him, but they did not bother him anymore.

I cannot stand bullies. I cannot. I see some little guy out there that cannot, or a guy who cannot defend himself, and somebody else. I just, I will pick up their cause all the time. I will tell you something. I learned that from the Lord because He is always sticking up for the little guy that could not stick up for himself. You know who He stuck up for? He stuck up for me. I could not stick up for myself. He stuck up for me. He was always sticking up for the guy or the woman who could not stand for themselves. In history, He stood up for Israel when Israel could not stand for herself.

One time there was a woman at the well who was taken in adultery. They wanted to stone her. He stuck up for her. I mean, He told her to go and sin no more, but He stood up for her. He stood up for the thief on the cross. I mean, they are all guilty except Him. One over on this side says, "You know, Father, forgive me, you know, forgive me." The other guy laughs at him or whatever. The Lord, there was a guy who could not stand up for himself. Christ Himself was being crucified. But in that hour, He said to that guy, "This day shalt thou be with me in paradise." He stood up for the guy who could not stand up for himself.

I remember one time there was a woman with an alabaster box who took the precious ointment that cost a lot of money and put it on His feet. One of the disciples got upset with that saying, "Well, we should take that money to give it to the poor." Jesus said, "Let her alone. Let her alone.

She is doing a good thing here." He is always sticking up for the little guy. Always was. He always came to the rescue. You talk about the best one, wait until the Second Coming of Christ.

O.M. Al-Sebaka used to tell the story of a little boy that he would go to school every day. Every day at school, this big boy would take his lunch money, beat him up, push him around. Every day when he would come out of school, that boy would be waiting for him, shake him down. Well, one day the little guy got out of school about five minutes early, and he did not see the boy, and he started going down the road. About half a block, he looked around, and the boy had just come out and was looking for him. The boy saw him. The boy took off after him. That little kid started running for home about five blocks away. That little kid was running as hard as he could. That bully was bigger than him, had longer legs than him, and he was catching on him. That little kid turned the corner, and he saw his house down the end of the street. He is just running like his heart is going to come out of his mouth. He hears that bully gaining on him behind him. That kid opened that gate in his front yard and got in over the thing. He looked around as he went around the house. That bully just scaled that fence right over that thing. Just as he got to the back door and he went to get in the house, that bully grabbed him by the arm. Just about that time, the back door opened, and his big brother just got home from the Marine Corps. That little kid looked at the bully and says, "You want to hit me now? You want to take my lunch money now? You want to beat me up now? You want to push me around now?"

Let me tell you something, folks, you will get kicked around in this world. There will be some big bullies in this world, but I got some good news for you. Wait until your big brother gets here. He will straighten it out. He is always sticking up for guys like us. That is why I love Him. That is why we need to stick up for each other. There will be times when you are weak that somebody else is strong. Stick up for them. Stand up for them. Fight for them. Go the distance when they cannot go the distance themselves. Why? Because there will be a time in your life when you cannot. It is just that simple.

When you look at this in the Bible, you will find there are some key words that come with Israel and Christ. There will always be negative words. The words like "oppressed," the words like "poor," "mourning," "meekness." They are always associated with it. The nation of Israel has been the butt of jokes and people making fun of them, hating them for the last 3,000 years.

I grew up here in the standard joke, you know. Jews always are about money. Gentiles hate Jews. They hate Jews because of the fact that no matter where they are at. That is one of the problems that Adolf Hitler had with them. Germany is in the middle of depression, and it costs six million Reichmarks for a loaf of bread. They are in the middle of depression, and the Jews have money enough to put gold in their mouth, in their teeth, and they just drove them crazy.

But I grew up, the standard joke is, you know, that Frank Sinatra sang "Ave Maria," and 10,000 Christians became Catholic. Mahalia Jackson stood up and sang "God Bless America," 10,000 Catholics became Protestants. Eddie Fisher, who is a Jew, stood up and sang "There is a Gold Mine in the Sky," 20,000 Jews joined the Air Force. You see, that is the kind of stuff you get. I like that. You do not get that very much. Wrong dispensation, I guess. I do not know.

The words "oppressed," "poor," "mourning," "meekness," "all manner of evil," "forsaken," "persecuted," "reviled," "afflicted." That is what you find with poor people. That is what Israel is portrayed as, but it is true. For the poor in life, you know, for me, it has always been a great reality check. One of the things I love about the homeless ministry, the street ministry, we are going down today, you know, Restart, 8th and Cherry, and all the teams that go out. I get it. I understand 98% of those people are in the fix they are in because they went against the Word of God in their life. I get it. They are in places called Turnaround. They are in places called Restart because those places, those institutions signify that they are trying to get a new start, trying to get turned around. But you and I know that most of them never will.

Jesus said in John 12:8, "For the poor always ye have with you." You are always going to have the poor with you, but they are there for a reason. Hey, every time I go down, and I will this afternoon, and drive around, see what is going on, I thank God every time I am down there that I did what I needed to do with the Word of God. Because I want to tell you something. Everything in my life that I have is only because everything that I have, I am if I am anything, but everything that is good in my life that I have, every blessing that I have is simply because the blessings of that Book work. How I ever got where I am at, how I ever got here, how I ever stay here, I will never know except that Book and the greatest piece of advice I could ever give anybody. You take care of the Book, the Book will take care of you. It is just that simple.

Most churches would not do what we are going to do this afternoon. I know the big churches, I have seen them before, you know, they go to a place like Hy-Vee or Price Chopper, and they park a big truck out front, and they get all their people to come there to the grocery store, and as people are going in, they give them a little bag and a little flyer and say, "When you are buying groceries today, if you would just put four or five items in here and pay for them and bring it out to us, all this food is going down to Harvesters or food pantries or going down to the homeless people." They do that, and they all go out afterwards, you know, they all go out to eat, and they are all satisfied, you know, like, "Man, we did a good thing today," feeling all good about themselves.

You know, one time there was a missionary to China from America, and he went to China on the mission field, and he had been there for five, six, seven years, and he had not won one person to Christ. He was a typical missionary, wore his three-piece suit, little American flag on his lapel, and after four, five, six years, he became so despondent. He became so desperate. Finally, one day as he walked through that market with thousands of Chinese there, and he could not reach one of them, he found an old man, and he sat down and he poured his heart out, and he said to that old man, "Old man, I have come here with the gospel. I come from America. I do not understand why your people do not want to hear the message that I have." That old Chinese man looked at him and he says, "Mr. American missionary, you want to know why nobody comes to you? It is simple. You love our souls, but you do not love us."

He had never spent the time to become one of them. He always looked at them through the air of his superiority that "I am an American, you are a Chinese, you are inferior, I am here, you need what I have." People will love people's souls today, maybe, but you cannot love those you do not know. They will never get down with them in their world to get to be their friend.

I watch some of you do exactly that. I watch you guys. I watch you guys down at the library. You have got that system so greased and oiled it is unbelievable. Here we are in a place where everybody else is going to the court and going to here and going to there, and the city is trying to stop everybody taking food down here. Here you got the very security guards down at that library protecting you, guarding you, making sure nobody messes with you. Why? Because you took time to be their friend. Why? Because you take extra care to take their lunch down to them two Sundays a month. I watch you guys at 18th and Cherry. I go down there, and you are sitting along the road with them talking, some on the curb, some on the wall. You are just talking with them. I watch Will's team with the young kids out when they go down to that bus stop and all the way up and down. They are engaging people, they are talking to people. It is not just a "here, read this." They are actually building a bridge between our world to their world. The river team goes down there, tromping through the jungles of the river bottoms down there, finding those homeless people in tents and camps. There was a time when before that guy got killed down there that and he bulldozed the camp out and that guy got saved by one of our teams the week before he got killed. They had little cities down there. We were going down holding church services down there Sunday afternoon.

You cannot love people that you do not know. It takes more than just, "I love your soul, brother." Most preachers follow that same mentality. They will stand up at the top of the stairs in their church, look at all the people that are struggling down here, preach their message. That is the message, "Get up here where I am at so you can be like me. Then you will solve your problems." None of them ever think about walking down those stairs, putting their arm around somebody, and walking them up those steps one step at a time. No wonder people feel burned with churches. They do get burned with churches.

I have told a thousand people a thousand times. One thing about this church, as long as you do what is right and want to do what is right, this church will never hurt you. There is no politics here. There is nobody any better than anybody else. Everybody puts your pants on the same way everybody else does. That is why the women wear slacks here. I am not sure why I said that, but it just kind of jumped in there. But you know what? It is what it is. We are here for you. We do not want anything from you. I do not personally. The Lord does. We are not here to get an upper hand to get something that you got. We are here for you because you have a need. Here it is. No politics. Nobody is going to hurt you. Nobody is going to talk about you. Nobody is going to get behind your back. The moment they do, we got a one-way bus ticket at the peak of Kansas. Living proof that hell is full when dead men walk the earth.

IV. Proverbs 17:6: Children's Children and Family Ministry

Proverbs 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Doctrinal Context: Israel Based on Families

Now there are three things here we want to look at. Doctrinally, first of all, we will get that going. This will be to the nation of Israel that was based on families. Most people do not

understand that. Most people go through the chronology of the Old Testament. You see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and you see all of those guys. We study those guys, but most of the time, you know what we miss? We miss that that was a line of families. They were not just guys. They were all connected. They were all families.

When God called Abraham back there in Genesis 18:19, you know what God called him on the basis of? He says, "I know this guy. I know he will do what is right with his family." His family went from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob right down the line. The Lord Jesus Christ at the first coming of Christ came out of that long line of families. He said in Genesis 12:3 concerning the nation of Israel that all the families of the earth were going to be blessed. He said in Genesis 18:18 that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through the families. You see God's plan in the Old Testament was to reach the world through the family unit.

Practical Application: Spiritual Sons and Grandsons

In a practical way, the second thing, it is about us as Christians winning and getting people saved through a new birth and them being our sons and grandsons in the Lord. You know, we sit here and we talk about our history like we did the last couple of weeks. I talked about my father in the Lord, Mel Sobaka, his father in the Lord, Mel Sobaka, and his father in the Lord, Eu-Pile, right on down the line. We talk about those things, but most of you do not probably stop and think that many of you, if not most of you, Mel Sobaka was your great, Mel Sobaka was your grandfather. Pete Ruckman is your great-grandfather. Eu-Pile was your great, great, great, great-grandfather, spiritually speaking.

The process is like Paul and Timothy and Titus and Philemon. The people that we win to Christ, they actually become our sons and daughters in the Lord, spiritually speaking. It is a thing, I have had dads that married a wife where there were other children from another marriage that were not his. I do not get it. To many of them, it always seems to be a problem, "Well, they are not my children. I really do not know how to be a father to them because they are biologically not mine." I always tell them, "Come on Sunday, I have 250 people here that are not my biological children. Yet I find a way to be a father to them." Because it is not about whether biologically you produce them or not. They may not be your biological children, but they can be your spiritual children. Very honestly, that is a lot better than just to be a biological factor. That is where you begin to take them in. But there are some things you have to do. I am not your biological father, but you are my son. Yeah, I will take you. Call me Pops. Many of you do. Some of you call me Dad, call me Grandpa, I will kill you. It is a process that goes on. It is a process that goes on. You do not have to biologically produce children to be a spiritual father to them. It is just so simple. You realize that, you know what, I have things I can do. I mean, being a spiritual father is a lot better than a biological father. You do not have to pay for anything.

Literal Families Ministering Together

Now, you know, it is a thing where two key words here that you look at. Well, let us look at the third application first. The third application also lends itself to our own literal families. Just talk about that for a moment. Families ministering together. Family today is pulled apart on every side. Families are being destroyed today. The reason is because just as the Old Testament, in the

Old Testament, the unit was the family. In the New Testament, the unit is the family. Your family, godly line, or your family, an ungodly line. Many families today out there are looking for someone to help them find their way. Nobody can help a struggling family like another family that is got it all together. I say that completely knowing that there are no perfect families. I get that. Just imperfect families working daily to perfect themselves for the work in the ministry. That is all.

The verse says, "children's children." That is that third generation of establishing your family and ministry together. You, your kids, and then their kids form a ministry team together. Two key words that I said a minute ago: the word "crown" and the word "glory." Aimed right at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Now I know we all envision the Judgment Seat of Christ in our own way. I get that. I mean, the very best definition in the Bible is left somewhat to your imagination; not all the details are given. But wouldn't it be a wonderful thing that when God called up to the Judgment Seat of Christ, that He called the family up? You stand there with your family, holding hands, looking at the Lord. No divorce in your family. No split up in your family. Kids went to church, ministered with you all your life. Was a ministry team, third generation, fourth generation. Reason why it says third generation because usually the parents die off after that, and it does not get much for them. It is not that if the generation ends, it picks up again with the children. But it is a thing where, wow, what a thing that would be. The whole family coming up and standing there at the Judgment Seat of Christ as a team.

V. Proverbs 17:7: Excellent Speech and Lying Lips

Proverbs 17:7 Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

In other words, when you listen to someone speak, does what they say really come from them, or are they just telling you what you want to hear? In politics, it is called talking points. A candidate will get up and give a rousing speech. Crowd goes nuts, interrupts ten times with their applause. I sit there and understand that he just tells them what they want to hear. He has no intention of keeping anything that he is saying. He is just saying what a paid speech writer wrote for him to say so he would get the people on his side.

In churches, it is the same thing. Most preachers do the exact same thing the same way. They just tell their people what they want to hear. In 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, this is called handling the Word of God deceitfully. They keep the illusion of truth going where there is no truth. I would say, and this is a tough one, if you do not have wisdom to understand, I would say that probably 99% of Christianity today, churches today, are just a sham. Somebody would say, "Well, I take issue with that." Of course you would. Of course you would. You bought into it, and you have given heed to the false lies, and you believe everything they say. You never stop and look in your Bible and see, "Is what the guy telling me the truth?" You just assume he is.

Their real purpose is material things, buildings, money, health clubs, restaurants, coffee shops, gymnasiums. Well, they do not even call them churches anymore. Now they are campuses. Oh yeah, and you are fine right up to the time you need something, and then you will see how insignificant you really are. Just go try to talk to your pastor sometime and ask him, "You have

got a problem." He will farm you out to some second stringer. Try to sit down with him and say, "Well, can I spend an hour with you learning the Bible?" Well, he will look at you and say, "I do not have time for that."

It is a great little truth tucked away in the book of Revelation. I love things like this. Found in Revelation 18:11-13. It is talking about the church of Satan. I get it. Babylon mystery religion. But it is worth looking at because, boy, there are some things that are very similar here. In life, it shows you the priorities of this church when it comes to ministry.

Revelation 18:11-13
11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:
12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,
13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Now you see that thing? First thing it says, first thing is all about merchandise. That is things. Then the first thing in verse 12 that they want is gold. See that? Then you go down through that list. You see the last thing they care about? Verse 13, "souls of men." Now that is the exact same mindset with every church big or small today when their goals are these things. Building buildings instead of building people.

It is Christians too. Listen to why a Christian can be saved 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years, never won a soul to Christ. Hey, these churches are filled with saved, born again people who have taken the devil's Bible and listened to that crowd of lies, and they have given heed to the false lips, have given ear to the naughty, now that is explained, tongue. The effect today, the end result, is now a church that has completely lost its way.

Revelation 3:17-18 says that a church that is lukewarm is neither cold nor hot. Boy, if that is not it today. No doctrine, but they are not in apostasy. They are kind of right in the marshmallow middle.

Revelation 3:17-18
17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:
18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

He says the words "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked." That is the church of Jesus Christ. That is today. In Laodicea, when a guy speaks today, "excellent speech becometh not a fool." Their lessons, sermons, lectures have nothing to do with God in the Bible. The Word of God is reduced to a system of professional terms. The young man is impressed, but with great swelling words and giving ear to it. Then gets enticed a couple of weeks ago into a secret society that basically destroys his faith in the Word of God, the Alexandrian cult. Now he forsakes the

plain, simple, common truth of the Word of God for professional liar's terminology. Sprinkle in a BA or an MA or a PhD. Their spiritual posits he has set.

2 Peter 2:18 says, "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh." Paul said in 2 Corinthians 3:12, the greatest handbook in the Bible on ministry, "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech." Now there you are. Take your choice. When you go to Bible college and these professional liars they talk about the Bible. It becomes a the Gnostics of the second and third century. A secret language you must pay them to get God's Word. Where I will teach you on Thursday night about angels, they have to call it angelology. Where I will talk to you about man and his problems, they will teach you and call it anthropology. When I talk about God's simple plan of salvation, they call it soteriology. When I talk about church and church history, they will call it ecclesiology. When I talk about Jesus and the life of Christ, they will talk about it Christology. When I talk about the Holy Spirit of God out of John 14 or 16, they have to call it pneumatology. When I talk about believing your Bible and defending your Bible, they have to call it hermeneutics. When I talk about exposure or apologetics, excuse me, when I talk about expounding the Bible or teaching your Bible, then it is hermeneutics. Everything has to be professional. Everything has got to have an "-ology" on it.

It is almost like, and the people, you know what they do? They go spend all of their money, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60,000 dollars going to an institute they are supposed to teach them the Bible, and when they come out, they come out talking like nobody in the Bible ever talked, and nobody seems to get that. The worst case is they come out without a Bible. You see, this is what has happened today. They have bought into the lies of the Laodicean church. They have given heed to false lips and given ear to a naughty tongue, the devil's, and today right now, this is the state of Christianity in all America and all around the world.

You see, the book of Proverbs goes to the heart of the issues with man, and the heart of the issues of man will always be the Word of God, what he does with it. The Word of God will cut right to his heart about the Book, right where he lives. Hebrews 4:12-13 says that the Word of God discerns the thoughts and intents of our hearts. It says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight." It strips all of the false religious garbage we wrap ourselves in. That just shows us where we are really at. That is why men do not like the Bible.

When I was in school, I had to read a book, probably read it too. It was a book called The Emperor's New Clothes. There was a king one time who a guy came in and told him and got him to believe that the clothes that he made for him were just beautiful, but they did not exist. They were invisible. So the king got naked, and he pretended he was putting all these clothes on. The king was walking around, and he was portraying everybody, "Look at me, look at these beautiful clothes." He had believed what the guy said. He actually deluded himself in thinking that he had clothes on when he did not, and he walked all around his court saying, "Will you like me?" Everybody was afraid to tell him, "You are naked." So everybody said, "Wow, those are the greatest clothes in the world, who is your tailor?" Everybody was afraid to tell him, and he walked around naked pretending he was clothed when in reality he did not have a stitch of clothes on. God's people walk around today in this church age like they are going to be clothed in

the Judgment Seat of Christ, and preachers today are afraid to tell them they are naked. They do not want to hurt their income. They do not want you to leave their church. They do not want you to get upset. They want to tell you just what you want to hear. God's people today are that emperor, and they are walking around thinking that they have clothed themselves with the things that they do, and when they get to the Judgment Seat of Christ, they are going to find out they are naked. The book of Proverbs is an incredible book.