

# Proverbs 20:28-29

[Date]

Well, good morning everyone. It is so good to be here with you today. We're going to be looking at Proverbs chapter 20, verse 28 and 29. And I want to talk to you today about the importance of mercy and truth in our lives, and how they preserve us, and how they preserve the king, and how they preserve the church, and how they preserve our homes.

Proverbs 20:28 says, "Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy." And verse 29 says, "The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head."

You know, the book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom. It's a book that teaches us how to live a life that is pleasing to God. And it's a book that is filled with practical advice for every area of our lives.

Today, I want to focus on these two verses, and I want to talk about the importance of mercy and truth. These are two of the most important qualities that we can have in our lives. They are the qualities that will help us to live a life that is pleasing to God, and they are the qualities that will help us to preserve our lives, and our homes, and our churches, and our nation.

Let's start with mercy. Mercy is the quality of showing compassion and forgiveness to others. It's the quality of being kind and loving to those who have wronged us. And it's the quality of being willing to help those who are in need.

The Bible tells us in Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." And in Luke 6:36, it says, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."

Mercy is not just a feeling; it's an action. It's something that we do. It's something that we show to others. And it's something that God expects from us.

Now, let's talk about truth. Truth is the quality of being honest and sincere. It's the quality of speaking the truth, even when it's difficult. And it's the quality of living a life that is consistent with God's Word.

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And in John 8:32, he said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Truth is not just about speaking words; it's about living a life that is in accordance with God's Word. It's about being honest in all of our dealings. And it's about being faithful to God.

So, we see that mercy and truth are two essential qualities that we need in our lives. They are the qualities that will help us to live a life that is pleasing to God, and they are the qualities that will help us to preserve our lives, and our homes, and our churches, and our nation.

## I. The Story of Jacob

You know, when I think about mercy and truth, I think about the story of Jacob. Jacob was a man who was not always the most honest or the most merciful. He was a man who was willing to do whatever it took to get ahead. But even though Jacob made mistakes, God was still merciful to him. And God was still truthful with him.

God's mercy and truth preserved Jacob. And God's mercy and truth can preserve us as well.

When we live a life of mercy and truth, we are living a life that is pleasing to God. And when we live a life that is pleasing to God, we are preserving ourselves.

## II. The Balance of Christian Life

Proverbs 20:28 says, "Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy." This is a powerful statement. It tells us that mercy and truth are essential for leadership. They are essential for preserving a kingdom.

But it's not just about kings. It's about all of us. It's about preserving our homes, our churches, and our nation.

John 1:17 says, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." This verse highlights the balance between law and grace, between truth and mercy. We need both in our lives.

We need the truth of God's Word to guide us. And we need the mercy of God to forgive us. And we need to extend both truth and mercy to others.

When we are merciful, we are showing compassion and forgiveness. When we are truthful, we are living in accordance with God's Word. And when we have both, we are preserving ourselves and those around us.

## III. Understanding Our Seasons of Life

Verse 29 says, "The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head." This verse speaks to the different seasons of life. Each season has its own glory and its own beauty.

Young men are strong. They have the energy and the vitality to accomplish great things. And old men have wisdom. They have the experience and the knowledge that comes from a lifetime of living.

We need to appreciate each season of life. We need to embrace the strengths of youth and the wisdom of age. And we need to remember that God has a plan for each season.

We don't always know how to pray as we should. Romans 8 tells us that. We don't always know what to ask for. But the Spirit intercedes for us. And God knows our needs.

Isaiah 55:3 says, "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David." And Acts 13:34 echoes

this, "And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David."

God's mercies are sure. They are everlasting. And they are available to us if we will only incline our ear and listen.

## IV. The Stages of Spiritual Growth

1.) The first stage is that of a baby Christian. This is when we are new in our faith. We are like babies, dependent on others for nourishment.

1 Corinthians 3:1 says, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." This is a reminder that we all start somewhere.

> We are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)

2.) The second stage is that of young men. This is when we are growing in our faith. We are strong and we are able to overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2:13 says, "I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one."

> We are to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. (Ephesians 6:10)

3.) The third stage is that of fathers. This is when we have a deep understanding of God. We have a mature faith.

1 John 2:13 also says, "I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning."

> We are to be like trees planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. (Psalm 1:3)

Hebrews 5:14 speaks of "strong meat" belonging to those who are of full age, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

## V. Managing Time for God's Effectiveness

Psalm 90:10 says, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalm 90:9-12 says, "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

We need to number our days. We need to be effective with the time that God has given us.

James 4:14 says, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

We need to be faithful with the time that God has given us. We need to use our time wisely.

2 Timothy 2:2 says, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." This is about passing on the faith.

## VI. The Legacy of the Gray Head

Proverbs 20:29 says, "The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head."

The gray head is a symbol of wisdom, of experience, of a life lived. It's a symbol of honor.

1 Peter 5:1 says, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:"

The gray head is a testament to God's faithfulness. It's a testament to a life lived for Him.

## VII. The True Meaning of Beauty

When we talk about beauty, what do we mean? Is it just outward appearance? Or is it something deeper?

Romans 1:20 says, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

The beauty of God is seen in creation. It's seen in His Word. It's seen in His Son.

Psalm 48:2 says, "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

Song of Solomon 6:4 says, "Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners." This is how beautiful He is to God.

Jeremiah 13:20 says, "Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?"

Matthew 23:27 says, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."

Isaiah 52:1 says, "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean."

Isaiah 64:11 says, "Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire: and all our pleasant things are laid waste."

Ezekiel 23:42 says, "And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads."

Romans 10:15 says, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Proverbs 26:4 says, "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him."

Proverbs 26:5 says, "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit."

Luke, Samuel chapter 25 verse 3. That's a typo. It's 1 Samuel 25:3. "Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb."

The true beauty is found in Christ. It's found in living a life of mercy and truth. It's found in being faithful to God.

Let's pray. Father, we thank you for your Word. We thank you for your mercy and your truth. Help us to live lives that are pleasing to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.