

Proverbs 22:22-27

Sunday 3/11/2018

If you have your Bibles, I want to again invite you to turn to Proverbs 22. Last week, in my humble opinion, we saw one of the greatest sections in the Bible, certainly in the book of Proverbs, on how the Bible will impact your life and change your life to be what God wants it to be and how it will change us. I ended last week by summarizing everything that we said, and I gave you ten great principles about the Word of God, how good it is for us to take those principles, and how they will change our lives when you apply them.

Today I want to move on and look at Proverbs 22:22-27. Here again, we will see some really good, solid principles that we can leave here with today, take with us, and help us in our own lives. Let me read it for you.

Proverbs 22:22-27

Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

Now, we are going to take these verses one at a time and look at them. I know if you were to read this, you would say, "Wow, how do you get an hour or so of preaching out of something like that? That's pretty mundane." But I guarantee you, there is a lot in here. First of all, as we always do, we are going to lay out the passage doctrinally, and we are going to look at how it applies in a prophetic way. Then we will come back to the inspirational application and apply it to ourselves. Of course, the historical application pretty much takes care of itself.

I. Doctrinal And Prophetic Application: Oppression Of Israel

Look at Proverbs 22:22. It starts there:

Proverbs 22:22

Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

Let's talk about it as it deals doctrinally or prophetically first of all. Obviously, the poor here will be the nation of Israel. All through the Bible, the nation of Israel is portrayed as very poor. You are going to find that in Matthew 5-10, where He lays out what we commonly call the Sermon on the Mount. In reality, it is the constitution of the millennial kingdom, and in that structure, He talks about the poor in spirit. He talks about Israel being poor, being afflicted. All down through

history, God's nation has been taken advantage of by all the other nations, every one of them. In particular here, as we are looking at this, it is talking about the affliction of the Antichrist to the poor people of God, or the nation of Israel, in the Tribulation Period. But all down through history, they have been persecuted and taken advantage of.

These verses will go along with the one I gave you a couple of weeks ago in Proverbs 22:16, just a few short weeks ago, that said:

Proverbs 22:16

He that oppreseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

We commented on that at great length and talked about it, but I want to show you how these two kind of go together here. Someone has taken advantage of the Jew. Someone is using what they are going through, their being, and the struggles that they are having through their adversity. A great example of this back in the Old Testament would be in the book of Exodus itself. The Bible says at the end of Genesis that the nation of Israel finds themselves down in Egypt. The Bible opens up the book of Exodus where it says that there arises a new king in Egypt, one who did not know Joseph. He begins to persecute them, and here again, they are poor, they are slaves. He makes them slaves. They are afraid that they are going to rise up because they are populating and getting to be a great bunch of people. They are afraid they are going to overtake them, so they make slaves out of them. They put them down into the brick furnaces to make bricks. For 430 years, Egypt, Pharaoh, who is a type of Antichrist in the Bible, profits and takes advantage of them as they go through that terrible time and that terrible ordeal before God in the book of Exodus brings them out under Moses.

The principle is, the poor will always be easy prey to oppress or to rob and take advantage of because of his poverty. It is just that simple. He cannot always afford a lawyer, so you can, and you have more money than he does, and you can put him under. He cannot bribe a judge or a city council member. He cannot bring social pressure to bear on his behalf. He is pretty much stuck. He is stuck and at the mercy of the rich guy unless somebody stands up for him. I always like to watch when I watch the news. I think they all do it, Channel 9, Channel 5. They always have where if you have an issue you cannot get resolved, you bring it to Stan Kramer, and he will go on there and he will tell your story, and then they will go to the person and try to resolve it for you. I think that is a good thing. I really do. You have what we call affirmative action groups today. They are always sticking up for the guy who cannot stick up for himself. I think that can be a good thing. Sometimes it gets out of whack a little bit, but my point is that if you are poor, as the verse is here, it is easy for you to be taken advantage of because you do not have the wherewithal to support yourself and to defend yourself.

II. Inspirational Application: God Defends The Poor Sinner

Look at Proverbs 22:23. Here is the upside to it:

Proverbs 22:23

For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

That verse shows how God cares for the poor. This is such an important concept, and it is one that most people never see and understand. I want to take a moment and explain the concept to you as best I can. Here is a picture. We know it is the nation of Israel doctrinally, but here is a picture of God pleading the cause of them that cannot plead for themselves. It is God's nature to have compassion on the little guy. It is just that simple. God is not impressed with all that we have. God is not impressed with the millions of dollars that people have in the bank. God has always had a thing for the little guy who cannot stand up for himself.

When He showed up at the first coming of Christ, one of the greatest criticisms that was leveled toward Him is He spent all His time not with the scribes and the Pharisees in the upper seats of the meeting places. Their criticism was that He always spent time with the publicans and the sinners. He was where the need was. You look at Psalms 12:5, where it says in essence that He sets the poor and needy in safety. Look at Psalms 9:18. He says that God will not forget the needy. In Psalms 70:5, He says God will be there to deliver her. In Psalms 72:12, He says He will deliver them who has no helper. In Isaiah 25:4, and scores of places throughout the Old Testament, it says:

Isaiah 25:4

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

God will take up the cause of people who cannot take up the cause themselves. John 16:20 in the New Testament says that their sorrow will be turned into joy. Proverbs 23:11 says God will plead their cause.

As a church, and this is really important, as a church, this is what our mission needs to be. We need to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Most churches just cater to the rich folks. If you do not have a certain income bracket, you are out of luck. But Jesus always took care of the poor. He always cared for the poor. We go down to Restart, as you know, the first and third Sunday of the month. Most of you go with us down there, and you know, Will has a team, John Hill has a team, Phil Christie has a team, and Darren has a team, and then Danny and Zach have a team there at Restart. Gary and his team go down, and they cook hot dogs; they are down there. It is a team effort all the way around.

I have been asked before why I continue to do that because you do not see a lot of results. We have had people from time to time come to church here, but they do not last very long that we meet down there. It is a different world. For me, the guy who likes to squeeze every drop out of everything and does not like to waste a lot of time doing things where there is no coming back for the Lord, I can understand why somebody would ask that question. I want you to realize that I do not do Restart and the street ministry to get anything out of it. I do it because I love the Lord, and I know if the Lord Jesus Christ was here on Sunday afternoon, He would be down there with us. That is where He would be. He cared for the poor. I want the blessings to come

along with that. So when I go down and you go down, and we are down there giving them a cold drink of water, giving them a hot dog, giving them whatever you do, and witnessing to them and talking to them, you know what? That is what Jesus would do. Most churches today are so above all of that.

I told you at Christmas time how we were down there putting a party on for the kids, and I was out doing my deal, and I kind of run layers on between all the teams and make sure they got what they need. I was sitting there, and this big \$300,000, \$500,000 bus pulls up right there in front of Restart. An armed guard comes out, and all these people trickle out in their suits and in their diamonds and in their mink coats with their little kids, and they run over to the fence, and they are putting gloves and little things on there, and then they all get back in the bus and take off. I thought I was on an LZ, you know, in a helicopter landing, and a support team goes out and lays down a perimeter so you can get in. They were afraid they were going to be, I do not know, right down there in town, and they probably could have been. But I guarantee you, wherever they went after they were with their little lattes and their little comilate latte lattos, whatever you get, drinking their tea with a little finger up, and talking about what a blessing, how they helped the poor. You did not do anything except soothe your own conscience. That is all you did. You did not do anything.

I do not go down there because I am expecting to get anything back. I am going down there and doing that because Jesus loved the poor. I do not think this church, with all that we have, with all that we do, with all the truth that we put out, I do not think we can have a proper balance without loving the things that God loved, that He loved the poor. So I go down there. You go down there. The second reason I go is because it is a good reality check for me. It is good to see what God has done in my life and where it could be if it was not by the grace of God. I want to tell you something. Do not go too far in life without a good reality check. I understand it. But this church here, we always need to stick up for the little guy. We always need to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves. We always need to be there for the downtrodden. We do not have rich people in this church. We just have a bunch of common people.

Omel Subaka told me one time that Christianity, the real ministry, is just one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread. We are all beggars this morning. All of us are. What we deserve is hell, but what God gave us, we need to give to others. I am telling you this morning, it is one of those things where this church can never lose sight of the fact that there was a time in our lives when we had nothing. There was a time in our life when we were wretched, we were miserable, we were broken, we were busted. We cannot ever get to the place in our lives that we get so big with all of the light shows and all of the praise bands and all of the smoke coming out from underneath the podium. Some smoke will be coming out here in just a few minutes, but it will not be the kind you are thinking of. All of those great things, and forget the fact that Christianity has never changed from when God put it in effect in the book of Acts. It is just you and me taking care of those who cannot take care of themselves.

Most of you were that way when you came in. Most of you were busted, most of you were broken, most of you had no answers in life, most of you had bad marriages, most of you had issues in your life that you were struggling with, and there was nobody out there that cared for

you. Nobody out there that would put their arm around you and help you get where you wanted to go so desperately. But the Lord did, did He not? No one ever cared for me like Jesus.

Doctrinally, all these verses I have given you will be God standing up and pleading the cause for His people, the nation of Israel, the Jew during the Tribulation Period, going through the adversity, the oppression, and the robbery. A good example of this in history, if you want to put history to it, would be back in 1942 to 1943 in World War II over in Poland, Warsaw, when the Nazis began to round up all the Jews and they put them in, and most people do not even know where the word "ghetto" comes from. We think it is in Chicago or New York or maybe even in Kansas City. The word "ghetto" was used a long time ago, not the way we use it today. What they did was that they rounded up all the Jews and put them in a certain part of the city and then walled the city up. That was the ghetto; it is called the Warsaw Ghetto. There was another one in Czechoslovakia; they were all through Europe. What they did, they contained the people of God in these ghettos, and then as they were ready, they told them they were going to relocate them. They put them on a train; they went to Auschwitz or they went to Treblinka or Sobibor, or they went to one of the concentration camps. When they did, everybody went in and just took whatever they wanted out of their homes. That is a good example of what He is talking about here in history: in the face of great adversity and affliction, a poor, hated people who have been taken advantage of all down through history.

Now I have to tell you, just to keep it even, it is their own fault. God sent them a Messiah, God sent them the King of the Jews, God sent them a deliverer, and they turned Him down. They wanted nothing to do with Him; they crucified Him. I am going to tell you something. They put Him on that cross. When Pilate brought Him out there and they said, "Shall I crucify your King?" They said, "We have no king but Caesar." He says, "You still want me to kill Him?" They said, "Let His blood be upon us and our people." God took Him at His word. For the next two thousand years, they made those choices. But on the cross of Calvary, right before He dies, He looks up and He says, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." God gave them another chance. God says, "I ought to wipe them out, I ought to kill them." But because of my precious Son hanging on that cross, He asked me to forgive them. I am going to stick up for them, and I am going to get them through, but they are going to pay the price, but I will honor that prayer.

When it comes to the church, you and me, Romans 9 and Romans 11 are the two greatest chapters in the New Testament for you and for me, understanding what our attitude should be toward the nation of Israel. Romans 11:20 says, "Concerning the gospel, they are your enemies for your sake. But as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes." God says they are His people, so we are supposed to understand that. But they are hated. The devil hates them because of the fact that they get his land that was back his in Genesis 1:1. The devil hates them because Christ came from them, and Christ is going to be the King. So in Revelation 12:3, the Bible talks about the great red dragon. In Revelation 12:4, it talks about Israel bringing forth a man child, Christ. In Revelation 12:6, it talks about the devil persecuting that woman, trying to kill that child, and she flees into the wilderness. Revelation 12:13 says that the devil persecutes the woman. Revelation 12:17 says:

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

He hates Israel.

Inspirationally, this will be a great principle for us as poor sinners on the way to the lake of fire. God is seeing our helpless state and being taken advantage of by the world system, being afflicted by it. Every time I think about what God has done for me in my life and what He has done for so many of you in your life, I go back to Exodus 1-10. I go back and I read that story, how the nation of Israel, God's people, were put under the bondage of Egypt, and how Egypt is the type of the world, and how He showed them no mercy and how He persecuted them. For four generations, they were down there, and many of their moms and their dads and their uncles and their grandfathers died in Egypt. The Bible says that they cried out, and God heard their cry. God sent them a deliverer, Moses. Moses came down and led them out.

I do not read that story without thinking of this thing in my own life and probably in your life, because there was a day when every one of us was under the bondage of Egypt, the world. They persecuted us, they hated us, we served them, we loved them, and yet they stamped on us and they beat us, and they wanted to destroy us. One day, all of us, we got so fed up, we could not take it, we cried out. God sent a deliverer, a greater than Moses, the Lord Jesus Christ. He came down, and just as Moses led them out, our Heavenly Father led us out through His death on the cross. We are not under the bondage anymore; we are not under the persecution anymore, unless you just want to be.

Do not God's people remind me of the little boy I counseled one time years ago? His mom brought him in because he kept hitting himself in the head with a hammer. He had lumps all over his head. I said, "Son, you do not have to do that. Why do you hit yourself in the head with a hammer?" He said, "Because it feels so good when I stop." I ask God's people, "Why do you continually allow the world, you are saved, you are on your way to heaven, you let them persecute you and do the things and the relationships and the circumstances you get into?" Because it feels good when you stop for a while. Then you are right back into it again. I have had people in this church in my whole ministry; they are like a farmer's almanac, you can plant the crops by them. They will come into church for two or three years and, "Oh, I am going to do what's right. I am going to make this. I am going to do this." Four or five times they come, they start to get, and they go so far, and then the world pulls them back, and off they go.

I do not understand, I understand a lot of things, but I do not understand how once you really understand the price that was paid for you and for me, that you could not stand up for yourself. You could not defend yourself. There was nothing you could do, and God came down and heard you cry and got you out of this world. Why in the world would you want to go back into it? That God would plead the cause of me, who I could never plead my own cause. Oh, that was me.

Do you ever analyze why a man or a woman will not get saved? It is a real science to it. I call it Salvation 101: the mindset of somebody rejecting Christ. It is simply because that person, male

or female, is so busy through their own self-righteousness pleading their own cause. My friend, I want you to know something: as long as you or any man or any woman, when it comes to your soul and your eternity and God, as long as we will plead our own cause, you will never get justified by God. Job 31, we find Job defending himself. His three friends showed up there persecuting him, and he is defending himself in Job 31 so much that in Job 32:14, he crosses the line and he falls into unrighteousness, and that becomes his sin. Romans 4:5 says:

Romans 4:5

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

God and Christ will plead your cause as an unsaved person. He will plead your cause as a saved person. But before you are saved, He will stand up for the poor. You know why? The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 8:9:

2 Corinthians 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

We were poor. We were wretched. We had nothing. We could not justify or defend ourselves, and the aristocracy of heaven, the riches of heaven, became poor. You do not have to be poor this morning. Why do some of you saved people today just hang on to being poor when you do not have to be? Why do you have the misery and the heartache of the child of God that you had before you got saved? Why is that? Why does it feel so good when you stop? You say, "What is the solution?" Get a bigger hammer.

God can only justify the sinner. We talked about it a couple of weeks ago by looking at him through the blood of Christ as an unashamed man. Realizing that on the cross, His Son said, "Father, forgive them." I know He was talking about the nation of Israel. I know He was talking about the Roman Empire and all the people who did not understand it. But if He was not talking about you and me in an unsaved state, because if we had been there, we would have put the nails in His hand and been holding the hammer. God can only justify the sinner and defend him before Almighty God against his adversity when the sinner, you and me, ceases to defend himself and turns the whole matter of our defense over to a greater mediator. 1 Timothy 2:5 says:

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

He will stand for us when we cannot stand for ourselves. Oh, I was poor. My adversary was so rich, the world system, and it wanted to destroy me. I myself could do nothing. I could not defend myself. I was unworthy and undefendable. The world system was robbing me of happiness. It was robbing me of any joy. It was robbing me of any peace that I might have. God oppressed me with sorrow and drama and heartache. Then one day, He heard my cry. Me, you, who was undefendable. He came down, and He stood up for you and for me on that cross. When He put those nails in His hands and His feet, it was for you and me. When that Roman soldier put

that spear in His side and the water and the blood came out, He took that for you and for me. He stood and defended you and me who was undefendable.

Today, He is seated at the right hand of God the Father. Every time the accuser of the brethren walks into the throne room, comes up before God's throne with Jesus sitting at His right hand, and the devil says, "Did you hear about Bob Alexander today? Did you hear about Zach Smith today? Did you hear about Alex Smith today?" And they say, "Yeah, his name popped up here a lot." "Did you hear about so and so and so and so?" As the devil begins to bring against them a rallying accusation, the Lord Jesus Christ stands up, and He says, "Father, I will stand up for him." God the Father says to the devil, "Shut up and sit down." The Lord says, "Yeah, he is right. They are all of these things. But you know what? I defended them when they were undefendable. I stood up for them when nobody else would. Now they are in Me. If the devil wants to knock you down or persecute you or talk about you, since you are in Christ, you have to go through Him." That will stop him. That will stop him.

The greatest story in the Bible that illustrates this incredible principle is found in 2 Samuel, the whole chapter really, 1-30. This is the story of a man named Mephibosheth. Most people blow through that story and never stop to see the impact that it has about what we are talking about today. The name Mephibosheth means "breathing shame." Maybe you do not know the story, but Mephibosheth was one of Saul's sons. When he was born, the lady that was the nurse dropped him, and he was lame on his feet for the rest of his life. Saul is now dead. All of Saul's sons are now dead. Mephibosheth is now a beggar. He has not bathed in months. He has not changed his clothes in months.

David, a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, David asked a man in his court about the name of Ziba. Ziba in our story will be a type of the Holy Spirit of God. He says to Ziba, "Is there anybody left of the household of Saul that I may show mercy to?" Ziba says, "Yeah, there is Mephibosheth." David said, "Go fetch him." I want to tell you something. David had every right to kill him. Saul was no friend of David. The sons of Saul were no friends of David other than Jonathan. There was an absolute hatred. Saul tried to kill him over and over and over again. David could have looked at it as, "This guy, I have to eradicate that whole line of Saul." He could have had his soldiers go down there and kill Mephibosheth.

When I read that story of David saying to Ziba, the Holy Spirit of God, "Is there anybody left of the house of Saul?" In John 8:44, you have your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When I read that, I think of the day that God in the throne said to the Holy Spirit of God, "Is there anybody down there left of the house of the devil that will follow Me and love My Word?" The Holy Spirit of God said, "Yeah, Bob Alexander. Yeah, you." Put your name in there. When he talked about Mephibosheth, David said to the Holy Spirit of God, "Ziba, go get him." It was a day in your life. It was a day in my life when God looked down inside your heart and saw something that nobody else saw. We were in the wrong family. We could not defend ourselves. We were undefendable. God's Spirit said, "Go fetch him." Thank you, Lord. The greatest day in your life and my life is the day that God's Son in the throne said that the Holy Spirit of God

could journey you and me. "Go fetch him." I am not just saved this morning. I am fetched. Amen.

Ziba goes and gets Mephibosheth. He brings him to the king. I know Mephibosheth for sure thought David was going to kill him. He thought for sure that he was bringing him in to settle the old accounts with his father Saul. Oh, but grace. Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan. Oh, the grace that brought it down to man. Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span to say to you and me, "Go fetch him." He brought Mephibosheth in. He put his hand on that crusty old head that had not been washed, and hair that was stringy and matted together. He said, "Don't be afraid, Mephibosheth. Nobody is ever going to hurt you again. Nobody is going to kill you. Why, as a matter of fact, I am going to make you one of my sons. I am going to set you in my home, in my palace, and you are going to sit at my table and come and dine, the Master calls, come and dine. You can feast at Jesus' table anytime. We are going to eat the bread of the King continually."

You know what God did? God looked at you and me when we could not defend ourselves. God reached out to you and me when we could not make it on our own. You know what the job of this church is, filled with people like that? It is to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. We could criticize people all day long. We could point out their faults all the time. We could go back in their history and have a laundry list of things that they did that were wrong. If you compared it to your laundry list, they probably would not be too far off. But that is one thing. You do not look at your list; you look at the other ones. When it comes to this church, when it comes to a real church, when it comes to the Bible, there are no laundry lists. It is the blood of Christ. It is the fact that we were undefendable. It is the fact that we were unsustainable. It is the fact that nothing in this world could fix us. I could not plead my own cause. God came down and pleaded it for me. Wow, that is me.

David stood up for Mephibosheth. The job of every Christian in this church is to get in love with that book, fall in love with what God is doing here, and then spend the rest of your life standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves, bringing them along. David defended him, even though his family was David's worst enemy. You and I, we are Mephibosheth. That is a picture of us, totally undefendable, and no one to plead our cause. My Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, my David, came down to take up my cause and bring me into His house that I may sit at His table as one of His sons. I am eating the bread today.

Mephibosheth was lame the rest of his life. Did you ever notice that? He got to eat the King's bread, but he always was lame. You know why? That is a picture of you and me, no matter where we go. We are still sinners. But every day he got to sit at the table and eat the King's bread. I am a sinner, and I have my problems, but I want to tell you, I am living in the tall cotton today. We have the book, we have what God has given, we have each other. We have those of you who are here, just like me, that you were undefendable. God came down and defended you. Now it is our job to take care of the others continually. He came and took up my cause, and He defended me when I was totally undefendable. When everybody else threw me under the bus, when everybody else hated me, when everybody else wanted to destroy me, He was busy taking up my cause, even though I did not deserve it. He is my mediator between man and God, the man Christ Jesus.

If you are ever going to get salvation, if you are ever going to come to the point in your life where the Holy Spirit of God comes to fetch you, and you sit at that table, you cannot defend yourself for anything. Your self-righteousness and all your good works will do nothing. All the great things you have tried to endeavor in life that you thought was going to cut you some slack with God will not. If you are ever going to come to the Lord Jesus Christ, and you are ever going to come to Him to the place where you get Him to defend you, it is simply going to be, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling." It is going to be, "Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

If you are here this morning, and if you are listening to my voice on YouTube, I want to tell you something on the authority of the Word of God. You will never get saved or out from under the oppression and the robbery of the joys of your life until you quit justifying yourself and defending yourself and simply let Christ do it for you, and you are coming to Him as your Savior. We run into it all the time. The more you know the Bible, the more you learn the Bible, the more idiotic some things people teach about the Bible are, or this idea that is propagated today, that you can lose your salvation. You have to be an idiot, or you have to be so lame when it comes to the Bible that you are so dumb you do not even suspect it. You are like a back and in backwards. You can lose your salvation. You know what that means? That means there was a time when you earned salvation. Somebody said, "Well, he did something that does not merit salvation." I have never done anything in my life that merited my salvation. How can God take away something from me that I did not deserve when He gave it to me the first time? He knew what I was. It was not like the foreknowledge of God did not know where you and I were going in life, know our mistakes. It was not like God said, "Well, he did what? Well, pull that back from him." How can God take something from us and say we do not deserve it when we never deserved it when He gave it to us? We were undefendable. I am as undefendable now as I was back then. If it was not for Him, I would be sunk. So would you.

III. Warning Against Angry Men

Now look at Proverbs 22:24-25:

Proverbs 22:24-25

Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

Doctrinally, this will be a warning to the Jew not to make an alliance with the Antichrist. You see this all through the Old Testament. The Bible talks about in Proverbs, we have looked at it, how he flatters with his lips, how he makes a false alliance in Daniel, how he brings a false peace and safety. What he is saying here is, "Do not accept his false friendship with Israel. It is going to be a snare unto your soul." The devil has a deep-seated anger and hatred for God's people. I told you why: they are going to get his land that he once had. They are going to get the throne that he once was on in this city that once was here, Jerusalem. All down through the Bible, it is the history of the Bible, you saw the devil trying to stop it.

When Abraham was called out and God gave him the promises, the devil immediately steps in, and with Abraham, gets him to take Hagar and bring an Ishmael. For the next 5,000 years, that race of people does everything in their power, even to this day, to wipe out and destroy God's people. One little bad choice with eternal consequences. We saw it with Jacob and Esau, how Jacob stole the blessing from Esau. Esau hated him the rest of his life, and the Esau guys become the Edomites, and they work to try to destroy the nation of Israel. God wrote a whole book in the Bible in the Old Testament against the Edomites, the book of Obadiah. The cruel, unbelievable punishment of the captivity in 2 Chronicles 36, with Nebuchadnezzar coming up and taking the Southern tribes, and Sennacherib coming down and taking the ten Northern tribes. Oh, what a bloodbath it was. When Nebuchadnezzar finally got into that city in 2 Chronicles 36, they had held him off for three and a half years in the siege, and it had been one mess after another. Finally, when the siege ended and they broke down and went into that city, they butchered everybody. They were throwing little babies off the 50-foot walls, throwing them up and catching them on spears, cutting their heads off, cutting their hands. It was absolutely incredible. But it was not done then. Then we have the Roman Empire through a series of the Gentile nations. Rome goes into power about 100 BC, and she begins to take over the world, and she persecutes the nation of Israel, and the devil uses her to kill their own Savior, their Messiah. He tried to kill Christ in Matthew 2, Herod. All down through history, 4,000 years of it, we see nothing more than history than the devil's deep hatred and anger toward the people of God. It finally ends in Revelation 12, 13, 14, 15 in the Tribulation itself.

Inspirationally, this verse is a great one to illustrate how we should pick our associations very carefully, the people we allow in our lives. First, let's talk about anger. We have so many angry people in our world, and we hear about anger all the time. Anger with husbands against their wives, wives against their husbands, anger with parents to their kids, anger, anger, anger, anger management programs everywhere. We forget in the middle of all that that anger is a God-given emotion. Not all anger is bad. It is not a bad thing when you have it in a Bible context. The Bible tells us that God gets angry. In Psalms 106:32, he talked about God being angry at the water of strife with Israel. In Exodus 4:14, he says, "the anger of the LORD was kindled." In Numbers 11:10, with a mixed multitude, the Bible says the anger of the LORD was kindled.

In Matthew 21:12-13 and Luke 19:45, when Christ went into the temple and He threw out the money changers. In Mark 3:5, it says that He was angry with them. The definitive verse on anger in the Bible, now you want to get this, I always give you definitive verses. Everything will come back to a definitive verse. The definitive verse in the Bible on anger will be Matthew 5:22, where it is talking about:

Matthew 5:22

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

So anger with the right cause is okay in a biblical cause. I will throw this out to you. This shows you all about your new translations that some of you just love. In Mark 3:5, it says Jesus Christ

was angry with his brethren. The Bible defines it here in Matthew 5:22 that "he that is angry with his brother without a cause." So when your NIV and your ASV, they just absolutely take out "without a cause," and it simply says, "he that is angry with his brother is guilty of the judgment." By doing that little switcheroo, they make Jesus Christ a guilty sinner over there in Mark 3. You just go right along with it. You know why? Because you are of your father the devil. That is why.

In Christianity, there are some things the Christian should be angry about. I am just telling you. There are some good causes for some anger in Christianity. I am an easy-going guy. I am. I do not get upset with much, but I will tell you right now, and I take a lot of flak for it, but there are some things that as a Christian, as a pastor, I get angry about. Never you guys. I mean, you guys can screw up all day long. I will never get angry with you. I think you are stupid sometimes, but I have been stupid too, probably more than you. I never get angry at you. No reason to get angry at you. We just work through things together. But as a pastor and as a Christian, there needs to be some things as you grow. Maybe right now you are kind of an unchristian. You say, "I do not know what to be angry at." Okay, take some notes down. You will have five things to be angry at here when you leave. You will come to it in time. But I will tell you what.

I love the Bible. I love that book. I do not know where I would be without that book. What makes me angry is when somebody takes the Word of God and changes God's Word. When somebody steals the Word of God from God's people. When somebody puts a book out, it is called a Bible, that takes the blood of Jesus Christ out of it that saved my soul, that I would never have been defended without that. And you want to make Jesus Christ a guilty sinner. You want to put Jesus Christ and the devil in the same boat back there in the book of Isaiah and the book of Ezekiel. Those things anger me.

I will tell you something else that angers me: sin angers me. You say, "Well, I am sorry." I am not talking about your sin; my sin angers me. I get sick and tired of sinning. You know what? If there is one thing that I am going to be happy about when the Lord Jesus Christ comes back, it is going to be a hallelujah day. I am finally going to be in a place where whatever I think, whatever I do, whenever I say, is going to please Him. To me, that is heaven. Because I am having a time of it today. Had a time of it yesterday. If the truth be known, I will have a time of it tomorrow. But I hate sin. Sin disrupts the most perfect thing I ever had. I did not believe what He did for me. I love what He did for me. Honestly, with all of my heart, I love Him, and He gave me everything. When I step across that line and do something stupid, when I know better, I am angry today.

I will tell you something else I get angry with. This is a personal thing. I get angry with unbiblical preachers. The highest calling on this planet, without a doubt, is to preach the Word of God. I have a host of you young men in here that can preach probably as good as anybody or better in this city, probably the state, even the country. When you preach, you preach. You are taught to preach. You are taught to preach the truth. I will tell you something. I just get angry at the fact in Christianity when there are so many people hurting out there, when there are so many people, if there ever was a time in the history of the world that we needed the truth preached, it is today. And we will not preach it. We all have our private agenda. We want big churches. We want light shows. We want praise bands. We want this. We want that. We want all the smoke and

mirrors. We have, "Look at our church. We have everything." Yeah, everything but the truth. I get angry at that.

Now, you do not see me at 7-Eleven picking with a sign. I stay to myself. I do not get involved in that. I do not care. You do not see my blogs on my face or your face or whatever those things are. I do not do that. I do not take up those causes at all. I have one thing that I do: that is to make sure that the people that God gives me get the truth. That I take what I have in my truth and put it into you, and you will take it into somebody else. They will stand and fall at the judgment seat of Christ on their own. So will we. But I will be lying about that. It does not make me angry.

I will tell you something else that makes me angry: the laxity in church in general. This milk toast, mushy. I mean, all these pastors turned into BVDs and got underwear with lace on them. They are just a mess. They are such milk toast, do not want to offend anybody. "Well, I cannot preach this in my sermon because this family will leave or these people will get mad or offend this person." Let me tell you something. I love you. I love you to death. I would do anything in the world. But if the truth I preach offends you, that is on you, not on me. I would much rather have you mad at me than God mad at me at the judgment seat of Christ. In Proverbs 6:16, the Bible talks about the seven things that God hates. It makes me angry that those are the seven things that most of God's people love. So righteous indignation, anger with a cause, is good. Just make sure you are angry about the right things.

But again, both of God's people never follow the principles on anger. So they get mad. They get angry at and angry with preaching. "Well, he yells too much." And up in heaven, they are saying, "He does not yell enough." "He is too loud." "He is too uncouth." "He says things that are not culturally correct or politically correct." So they get mad at preaching, hard preaching. They get angry at it. They get angry at truth. Nobody wants to hear the truth today. We live in a dream world. We think that the Christianity we are part of, that we are okay because we can do everything the world does. You have churches today that will tell you that. They will tell you it is okay to social drink. They will tell you it is okay to gamble. They will tell you it is okay to do this or it is okay to do that. It is not. It is not. What is missing in Christianity in the lazy church is a separation from the world. We now have a Christianity where you can claim to be a child of God and live like the world. I have not met a sinner in 20 years.

They get angry about a real Bible. You want to find out what somebody's anger is, want to watch their blood veins pop? Just start talking to him about a King James Bible being the absolute Word of God. If they have a pacemaker, they are going to need a new battery. They are going to go into a cardiac arrest. They are going to have a spitting fit. Now, you that are here all the time, we are just a simple church. We will never have a big building with a spire on it. This is it. I like this. This is my home. If I die, I want my service preached right here. You can come by and ask me Bible questions, and I will give you the answers. I love this place.

When John Hill's daughter passed away, and they had the service here, there were some people from a couple of other churches that, as far as I am concerned, they only came over because they wanted to see where. They did not care anything about John or Jan. I watched them. I just stood on the corner. When they came down the steps, it was husband away. I am thinking to myself,

"You know what, you idiot, there is more truth in these walls than you had in the last 25 years of your life." It does not cause a me; it is causing you. We are just a simple church. But I will tell you what, and this church is unlike any other church in many ways, but one in particular: you cannot pretend here very long. You cannot. We have them come in all the time. That is why we have a door over here and a door here. You just pass right on through and go out the secret exit. You cannot pretend here for very long. The Holy Spirit of God will root you out. It always is that way where you have truth.

I have dealt with people for 47 plus years. I know I will tell you their best story when you first meet them, when they first come to church. There are certain people, I believe it, like you guys from, I believe everything you tell me because you are good people. I believe when you tell me you are where you, we had a good conversation, I buy that 100% because I see your family. I see you. I see your love for the book. But we will have people come in, and they want to impress me. They will start saying, "Well, I was this and I am that and all that." I just say, "Okay, okay, okay, okay, okay." I never listen to what somebody tells me. I just watch what they do. It is not about what you say. It is about what you do. You cannot pretend. That is why you come here, and the truth will hit you, and we all have issues. Anybody who comes in this church on a scale from one to ten, we all have issues. Some of you have issue number one, nothing big. Some of you have an issue number five, a little more complicated. Some of you have issues number ten, pretty serious. Some of you, you are off the chart, the meter is broke, and the gas is running out of the cylinders. You have some serious problems.

You know what this church will do for you? Not me, not the preaching. I am a nobody. I mean, I could put any 40 guys up here who could do what I do. I am just a monkey with the organ grinder. God is grinding the organ. I am the little monkey. He just throws me some peanuts every once in a while. You guys are my peanuts. I am nothing here. I am nobody here. The longer we go on, the less I am valuable to you. God is raising up some men and some women here and raising up my people here that can take a stand and do it and a thing that I do just, but I am telling you. When everybody came in here, God allowed you to come here for one reason: because there were some things in your life that you had to change on a scale one to ten. You one to five to six to seven to eight people, you change it. You get ten and beyond, and you come here for a while, and you do not want to change. So suddenly, we are the problem. 250 of you here can be wrong, and one person is right. Of course, that is stupid. I like it that way. I have always said that my style of ministry, you are going to love me or hate me. You will never find somebody who says, "Well, I kind of like Bob." No, no, you say, "Yeah, he really saved my life, saved my marriage, saved my this, the that, and I love him to death, and he teaches me the Bible." Or, "I cannot stand that guy. He is the worst guy on the planet." I like that. Right down the middle. That is the kind of church I want. I know I kind of like Old Paths, or I do not kind of know. You either love it because of what you get, or you hate it because of what you get. Okay, we are buddies. Go get a cheeseburger afterwards, me and you.

A whole crowd of people, of God's people, who are angry at God because they did not get what they thought they should have gotten in life. That God will not allow them to live their life and do what they want to do. So they get mad at God. We never stop and could think if we got what

we really deserve, we would all be screaming our lungs out in hell this morning. If you got what you really deserved, you would be screaming your lungs out in hell this morning. The best advice you could ever have, take or follow or apply, is to stay away from people who are angry for the wrong reason. It has been said that you can tell what a real Christian is and all about by what angers them. That is so true.

Proverbs 22:25 says:

Proverbs 22:25

Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

Being like the people you hang out with. You hang out with wise people, you are going to be wise. You love to hang out with people who love God, you will love Him too. You hang out with problem people, you are going to have some problems too. You hang out with fools, you are going to become a fool. You hang out with people who are angry for the wrong reason, you are going to get angry too. It is just that simple. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says:

1 Corinthians 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

And it will. In the nation of Israel, their issues always went back to the mixed multitude. Back in Numbers 11, the great chapter on the mixed multitude, the Bible says that really angered God. Because every time He tried to do something with the people that were His real people, this mixed multitude that they kept socializing with, bringing into their life, bringing their world, dating, having a relationship with, who had one foot in the world and one foot who were playing the game, kept pulling them down. Anger without a biblical cause will always get you off balance and be a snare to you.

I think anger is a good thing in a lot of ways. When I get into a, I have been into talking to cults before, anger is a tool you can use. Because if you want to get the advantage on somebody, there is an old saying that goes like this: "He who angers you controls you." There is a lot of truth in that because when somebody angers you, gets you off your game, you quit focusing on what you are talking about and what you are dealing with because now you are mad, and you lose your concentration. So if I am going to get into a debate with a cult, I will go for just a few moments, and then I will always insult them and make them mad. I will. That is part of my strategy.

I had a Church of Christ people here a long time ago. We brought them and invited them in, and we went at it for two or three weeks. Finally, I closed the thing out against one of their guys, who was their big stick, so to speak. I had it all planned out. Before I went anywhere to beat him to death, I wanted to get him angry. Most of you were here, not all, but a lot of you here. Their whole church came right in this room, and our whole church came, and we went at it for three weeks on Thursday night, had a ball. The last night, he put, they put their guy out, and I took him on to put a closure to the thing. I hit him with a couple of things that he did not have very good answers on. I could tell that he, he, he. So I said to him, in front of his own people, I said, "Is there anybody here that maybe knows more about this than you do? Because you seem to be

having a tough time with this." I had him. I had him. He got so flustered, he forgot everything he was going to say. I call that my Billy Jack move. Have you ever seen the movie Billy Jack? Oh, I love Billy Jack.

The famous scene in Billy Jack is the fact that he is walking into this park. He is an ex-special forces guy, and he stands up for the little guys, always does, over the big guys. He went into this town, and he is trying to help these poor Indian people down here, American Indians. The big guy in town, he wants to bully them out and take their land and all this stuff, just like the verse says, robbing the poor. Billy Jack is going to stand up for him. So they are going to make Billy Jack pay. Little do they know that Billy Jack can take on that whole city single-handedly. So Billy Jack is, he always walks barefoot. Never wears any shoes. That is because he is ready to kick your face in if he has to. So he is walking through the park, and four or five guys come at him from different angles. He has got this goofy hat. He walks in there, never smiles, never says anything. The big tough mayor or whoever he was comes up to him, and he says, "We are going to fix it for you messing with those Indians down there causing this problem. We are going to beat the fire out of you, and then we are going to run you out of town." Billy Jack never said a word. These four guys are all positioned around him, and he starts to smile. The guy says, "What is so funny?" Billy Jack says, "Because I am going to kick the side of your face in in about 30 seconds, and there is not one thing you are going to do about it." And he swings around. Then this guy comes. This guy comes. This guy comes. This guy, wipe them all out. That is my Billy Jack move when I deal with those kind of idiots. When I looked down to him, and I was getting ready to say, "Is there anybody in your church who knows more about this than you do? Because you are..." I was saying to him, "I am about to kick the side of your face in, and there is not one thing..."

My favorite line with Jehovah's Witnesses. I have dealt with them all my life. I had two come to my door one time. I saw them coming down the street. I knew what they were. They come out to my door, and they knocked on the door. I opened the door, and they said, "Hi." I said, "You guys are Jehovah's Witnesses." Now, I am going to witness to him, but I want to take the fangs out of their mouth first. I want to get them so mad that they cannot think that I am going to give him a Billy Jack move. I said, "How, you guys are Jehovah's Witnesses?" He says, "Look at each other." The big guy, a little guy. They looked at each other. He says, "Well, yeah." He says, "I said, 'Well, I am a Jehovah's Witness too.'" He says, "Well, we know all the Jehovah's Witnesses. When did you become a Jehovah's Witness?" I said, "Oh, about 20 years ago. When I asked Jesus Christ, Jehovah God, to come into my heart and save me from burning hell. The Bible says you shall be My witnesses. So therefore, I am a Jehovah's Witness." He looks at the little guy, and the little guy is looking at him, and he says, "Well, that is not the kind we are." Billy Jack move. I said, "That is the only kind there is. You guys must be phonies." They got mad. They got hot. I gave my Billy Jack move.

Anger can be a good thing if you know how to use it. Because the moment you get angry for the wrong reason, you lose your perspective. You know why some people beat their kids too much and hurt them and they want them in the hospital? Because they got angry at them. When you got angry, they lost control. They got angry. When you got angry, they lost control when they went

too far. That is how it works. If you do not have a righteous cause for your anger, then you do not have any limits to your anger. Whoever angers you controls you. So I just use it against those people. But anger will never be a good decision in making decisions in your life.

IV. Consequences Of Surety

Now look at Proverbs 22:26-27 here:

Proverbs 22:26-27

Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

Doctrinally here, before we get to the practical side, it will be the Tribulation Period. It is the Antichrist and the Jews who make friends with him. Proverbs talked about this a lot. He comes finally to take away everything they have got and take everything from them. He takes all of their possessions and leaves them absolutely nothing. It is, and we see a lot of this in life, even today with what we do. We use a little phrase, "make a deal with the devil." That is what Israel does in the first half of the Tribulation Period. That is what a lot of God's people do, even though they supposedly made a deal with Christ.

Inspirationally, when you make friends with an angry man, someone who is angry with God in all his dealings, you will always lose. You will. That is why I just stay away from them. They are going to be a snare for you. The problem within Christians and churches, in most cases, the anger that they have towards somebody or something, it is not really what you see as what you get. They are really never angry at the person, but they are angry at God, and they just take it out on that person. You just stay away from them because you are always going to lose. When a person is at odds with God and he is angry without a cause, they will never operate by the principles or the standards of the Bible, and you who do love God and want to do right, they will persecute you and make your life problematic. All kinds of issues. It will be a snare to you. They will take their anger out at God on you, and you will be taken advantage of without mercy. It happens all the time. This is why you find people who are very weak Christians, who cannot stand up for what they know to be right because they are afraid they are going to hurt somebody's feelings or offend somebody. You are a prime candidate for this kind of person, and I am just telling you. They will take all that you have. They will make you a servant to them, and when you have nothing left but a bed to sleep on, they will come and take that.

You know what that is a picture of? These kind of people who are angry with God, when they take all your energy and all the things that you have, they will come and take your bed. Not literally come to your house and take your bed, but a bed in the Bible is representative of rest. You will never have any rest in your life as long as you hang out with these people. There will always be turmoil. There will always be problems. When you make friends with an angry man or woman, Proverbs 22:27 says:

Proverbs 22:27

If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

Well, it is easy. Because he is angry with God, and because you love God, he focuses that anger toward you. He will not focus it toward God, but he will focus it toward you. He will blame you. He will make you the problem. He will make you the issue. He will always find people stupid enough out there to believe him. I have had situations in my years in the ministry where you are trying to help somebody, and some guy or some girl will tell this person, "Do not listen to Bob, do not listen to this, do not listen to that, do not listen to the people he has put with you." That person is stupid enough to believe him. God brought him to this church, God saved him in this church, God disciplined him in this church, but some idiot comes into your world who has an issue and is angry, and he is going to pull you off task. You are going to start believing her or him instead of where God puts you. Happens all the time.

When a man or a woman is angry at God because you love God, they want you to be miserable like them. So they have no rest or peace. Their life is in turmoil. It just goes from one bad thing to another, from one church to another. They were in this church, then they were in this church, now they are going to be in another church, and now they are going to go to this church. It only lasts, you know why? Because there is no rest for them. They want that with you. They want to take the very bed that you have got left. They will take your emotions, they will take your feelings, they will take everything you have got, and then the last thing you can hold on to will be your peace and your rest. They will come and take your bed. Make no friends with an angry man.

V. God's Ultimate Vindication

Go back to Proverbs 22:23 here:

Proverbs 22:23

For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

If I have learned anything in life, in 47 plus years of the ministry, and I have tried to learn some things, made a lot of mistakes, tried to learn some things from my mistakes, tried to look ahead, and tried to look and be better at what I am. If I have learned anything in my life, it is those who are against you and those who without a cause want to hurt you unbiblically, at the end, you will win. There is an old saying, I do not know where it came from, but I believe it. I have seen it work. I am seeing it work right now in my life. It simply says like this, "If you sit by the river long enough, the body of your enemy will float by." As Christians, we do not retaliate. We do not get even. We just keep doing the work that God called us to do. Because I believe that at the end of the day, God will defend those who are doing what is right and will not defend the ones that are not. God will take and bless you in your life and give you the blessings with your family, with this church, with you and your kids, and the young men and young ladies that are in here. The blessings will just keep coming because of the fact that God, in the end, you always win. When nothing else will tell, time will tell. Just let it prove itself out.

For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of them that spoil thee. In the end, Israel wins. All 6,000 years of the devil trying to destroy them and put them under, making them poor, at the end they win, and they get all the riches of the millennial reign of Christ that was promised to Abraham. Your life and my life are much shorter than that 6,000 years. But in this little three score and ten, you take your stand for the Word of God, there will be a price you have to pay. You should count the cost before you decide to do it. It is okay. Some of us get so focused on what everything is going on around us, we lose sight of the job that we are supposed to be doing.

One time the Lord Jesus put His disciples in a little boat. They went out on the Sea of Galilee in the middle of the night with a raging storm. He came walking to them on the water about the fourth watch and came to them, and they were scared to death. The wind was contrary to them, the rain was coming down, the lightning and the thunder was crashing all about them, the waves were about to swamp that little boat. When the Lord came down to them, He saw them, the Bible says. I do not know everything that He said to them, but I can imagine based on what He said to me in my tough times of life. He said, "You know what, son, the wind is always going to be contrary to you. The lightning and the thunder are always going to crash around you to try to scare you. The sea bellows are going to roar and rage and come over the gunwales of that boat and look like you are going to swamp." He says, "You do not have to worry about that. I am always going to defend you. I am always going to be here for you. Instead of worrying about the boat sinking, instead of worrying about the thunder and the wind and the light, you guys need to be doing one thing: rowing the boat." You do not need to worry about everything that is going on in the world today. In your own personal life, if you really are plugged into the Bible and want to do what is right, you do not have to worry about that. What you have to do is what I have to do, we all have to do, is focus on one thing in this church: let us just row the boat. Let us just keep rowing until He comes walking on the water for us.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Thank You for today. Thank You for this great passage and its truth and its power. We pray, Father, for the men and the women that are here today, and especially for the young men and the young ladies that You have given us here in this church that are so precious. I thank You for the older men and women that You brought back into my world over the last couple of years that stand side by side with me helping train these young men and these young ladies, helping me bring them along, and linking arms with me for the greatest calling the world is ever getting us, and that is to train up young men and young ladies for Your service. Thank You, Father, for our church. Thank You for the Word of God that You made it all possible. Most of all, thank You, because I was Mephibosheth. I was breathing shame, and I could not defend myself or stand on anything for me. You fought for me. You fought for me. You came down, and You defended me. When everybody else wanted to throw me out in the world and just run me over, You defended me. You loved me, and You saved me. Father, I thank You for the fact that You did for me what I could not do for myself. You took my cause unto Yourself. Because of that, may we take Your cause unto Ourselves until Jesus comes back and row the boat. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed. See you this week. Do not forget, Thursday night you can start bringing your hot dogs and your buns in for next Sunday. God bless you.