

May 24

Proverbs 1, 3, 10-29

What's up Christ Community. Danny Jacobson here again coming at you with the May 24th edition of Project 4:4. Today is our second to last day in Proverbs and I hope that you are sensing that God is making you wiser! Or that you are getting a foundation of what true wisdom looks like.

And so today, God spoke to us about a few more topics and usually when I read my bible I will write a verse down that jumps out at me. That I sense God is putting on my heart. And the one that I wrote in my journal today was Proverbs 25:6-7.

DO not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman.

Now, I think this is a great verse about humility. Solomon is telling us that honor is better given to us than assumed in the presence of a king. So I think that's great. However, what struck me about this verse was just the way that OT Scriptures informed the mind and hearts of NT authors and even Jesus. So, I am going to read it again and I want you to listen and see if you can't hear the echo of a teaching about humility from Jesus.

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So, did you hear it? Maybe you didn't. That's ok. However, this made me think of Luke Chapter 14:8, which is:

"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.

Later on in Chapter 25, though not in our reading today, it says

"If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head and the Lord will reward you."

In Romans 12, Paul quotes this, and then he adds his own advice at the end when he says: "Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by good."

So, a point that I'm trying to make is this: the great men and women of faith in scriptural times, and throughout church history, have always been people whose lives have been saturated in God's word. This is why God tells us to Meditate on the

word day and night...and to not let the word of the law depart from your mouth, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

Just like when Mary was visited by an angel...the prayer she prayed afterwards. IT was so much a part of her – when she opened her mouth, Scripture poured out. When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, his responses were all quotations from the Book of Deuteronomy. When Stephen was dragged before the Sanhedrin and placed on trial to save his life. His defense was a recitation of the Old Testament. When Paul was called to explain the mysteries of God dealing with His people to the Christians in Rome, his mind was immediately drawn to the Old Testament. From the deep reservoirs of OT Scripture, we see Paul draws his concepts and often his words.

I have a quick story that's relevant to this: I remember in college there was this kid who I had led to Christ and right after he got saved I remember asking him if he wanted to read the Bible with me. To go through a book. And I'll never forget his response because I thought it was just the most innocent response that revealed that he had no idea of the power of God's word. He said "Oh, I actually already read that when I was in High School."

I thought that was really funny. He eventually read the book of Mark with me. And now he understands the power of the Bible.

So, a quick recap of what we talked about. Today as we walked through our reading a bit, we talked about the importance of saturating your life with the Word of God. And so I am going to challenge you to memorize God's word. When you have God's word placed on your heart, the power to do what it says comes over you. Not only that, but you have a resource to go to when you are struggling. When you are hurting or in sin, you have God's promises that are on your heart to remind you of your adoption into sonship with God. To remind you of how much God is for you. That he works for the good in ALL things. And so my prayer for you, is that you memorize and meditate on God's word while being changed and used by our Creator.