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The Proverbs Series

Metaphors of Truth

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Proverbs 25:20-28 ²⁰Like one who removes a garment on a cold day or vinegar poured on a wound is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. ²¹If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ²²For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. ²³As the north wind brings forth rain, so a backbiting tongue brings angry looks. ²⁴Better to live on a corner of the roof than to share a house with a quarrelsome wife. ²⁵Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land. ²⁶Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked. ²⁷It is not good to eat too much honey or to search out one's own glory. ²⁸Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who does not control his temper. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** We have the ability to bring joy to others through our actions. V. 20
- B.** God will reward us if we refuse to continue hostilities toward an enemy and instead bless them. V. 21-22
- C.** We must refuse to use our tongue to hurt others. V. 23
- D.** We must not seek out quarrels. V. 24
- E.** We must encourage others with good news. V. 25
- F.** We hurt ourselves when we give way to wickedness. V. 26
- G.** Seeking self-glory never ends well. V. 27
- H.** A lack of control on one's temper leaves us vulnerable to attack. V. 28

II. How can we apply these truths?

- A.** Find someone who has a heavy heart and pray for ways to encourage them.
- B.** Make a list of those who consider you an enemy and pray for them. If an opportunity arises to bless them, do it.
- C.** Acknowledge that our tongues have hurt people and seek ways to repair relationships.
- D.** We need to learn ways to communicate our opinions that do not hurt others.
- E.** Our message about Christ must be communicated as good news.
- F.** We must never let others dictate our morality.
- G.** We should accept praise from others with humility and we should never demand praise.
- H.** Dealing with past hurts is a great way to control our temper.