

7/11/2021

The Proverbs Series:

Ears To Hear

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

Proverbs 29:1-10 ¹A man who remains stiff-necked after much reproof will suddenly be shattered beyond recovery. ²When the righteous flourish, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan. ³A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth. ⁴By justice a king brings stability to the land, but a man who exacts tribute demolishes it. ⁵A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet. ⁶An evil man is caught by his own sin, but a righteous one sings and rejoices. ⁷The righteous consider the cause of the poor, but the wicked have no regard for such concerns. ⁸Mockers inflame a city, but the wise turn away anger. ⁹If a wise man goes to court with a fool, there will be raving and laughing with no resolution. ¹⁰Men of bloodshed hate a blameless man, but the upright care for his life. (BSB)

What did Jesus mean when He said, “He who has ears let him hear”?

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** An **unrepentant** heart leads to self-destruction. V. 1
- B.** The character of **leadership** matters. V. 2
- C.** A man who obeys what he knows to be true **honors** his father. A person of bad character becomes a **burden** to his father. V. 3
- D.** A ruler brings **stability** to the land that they oversee. Unfair taxation destroys a nation. V. 4
- E.** Beware of **flattery**. It usually hides a hidden agenda. V. 7
- F.** The righteous will use their **voice** to encourage and to build up others with no agenda. V. 6
- G.** The righteous will seek to **help** the disenfranchised. V. 7
- H.** You can see someone’s **heart** by the results of their actions. V. 8, 10
- I.** Avoid financial transactions with the **foolish**. It rarely turns out well. V. 9

II. What can we learn from this?

- A.** Do self-checks on your heart. Your mind, emotions and will need to be in **alignment** with what you know God has told you.
- B.** Select leaders by their character and not just their **skills**.
- C.** Live our lives in such a way as to bring **glory** to God by honoring those in authority over us.
- D.** Hold our leaders accountable for **unfair** taxation practices. It should be to pay the bills and not for redistribution of wealth.
- E.** Listen to how you talk to others. Make your **words** edifying and encouraging.
- F.** Help lift others up through your **generosity**. Ask God to help you to discover ways to do this.
- G.** Do **research** before committing to financial commitments with others. Their track record needs to be considered.