



Message Discussion Guide Week of June 25, 2023

Message: Word to the Wise, Part 4: The Futility of Riches

Key Scriptures: [Proverbs 23:1-5](#)

Preacher: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

All truth is God's truth. Since all people are made in God's image, that means that anyone is capable of speaking truth. Even those whose religious beliefs are different from ours, or who we consider our enemies, are capable of uttering some truth.

- The wisdom shared in Proverbs 23 originates from Egypt, the enemies and oppressors of the Israelites. Since all truth belongs to God, this Egyptian wisdom is included in scripture.

Wisdom is like a GPS for life. It will help us know what to do, and how to handle obstacles. But the key to making it work is to identify the destination. The ultimate destination of your life determines the wisdom you will listen to.

The Egyptian wisdom of Proverbs 23 addresses a reality that has plagued human history – many assume that the destination of life is the accumulation of riches. Proverbs 23 provides two clear warnings about this:

1. Riches are deceptive.
2. Riches are futile.

So much worldly wisdom is centered around tips and tricks for getting rich. The problem is that even if you succeed, accumulation of riches is not a wise way to live.

Jesus taught us not to build up treasures in earth, but rather treasures in heaven. It's a matter of destination ([Matthew 6:19-21](#)). The key to being wise is to begin with the end in mind. Where do you want to go?

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Pastor Tom reflected on the meaning of the phrase, “All truth is God’s truth.” What does this statement mean? Why is it so relevant in the current divisiveness of our culture?
- 2.) What is the ultimate destination of your life? Do you feel like your daily decisions are oriented around that destination? Do you feel like the world tries to get us to assume that accumulation of riches is the ultimate destination of life?
- 3.) Read [Proverbs 23:1-5](#). What do you hear in these verses that inspires you? What resonates with you? What challenges you?
- 4.) Given where you are in life today, do you feel you are heading toward the proper destination? How might God be calling you to make some course corrections?
- 5.) What is your primary takeaway from this message? How will this message challenge, inspire, and impact your faith this week?

Abundant Life Tip: All truth is God’s truth. All people are made in God’s image, so all people are capable of speaking truth. Be open to how you might learn God’s truth from people who are different from you.