

Some Things Never Change

Proverbs 3:13-22

Prov. 3:13-22

- “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; 20 By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, let them not depart from your eyes-Keep sound wisdom and discretion; 22 So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck.”

Some Things Never Change

- What comes to the man who gains wisdom:
 - We are happier and appreciate the experience of happiness more.
 - Wisdom is more precious to us than any material thing, including gold.
 - With wisdom we can extend the quantity and quality of our lives.
 - With wisdom we can have a peaceful, abundant spiritual life.
 - The Lord established this world by wisdom.
 - Exercising wisdom in our lives will bring grace and hope to our lives

Some Things Never Change

- Wisdom will be found embedded in the truths we learn in life.
- So, what truths will teach us wisdom?

Life Is Not Fair

- “If you expect the world to be fair with you because you are fair, you’re fooling yourself. That’s like expecting the lion not to eat you because you didn’t eat him.” (John Spence)
- Ecc. 7:15 - “I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is a just man who perishes in his righteousness, And there is a wicked man who prolongs life in his wickedness.”
- Ecc. 8:14 - “There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity.”

Life Is Not Fair

- From the day we are born to the day we die, life isn't fair.
 - Some are rich and others poor.
 - Some are intelligent and others learn slowly.
 - Some are well fed and some are starving.
 - Some experience good fortune and some can't catch a break.
 - Some are free and others enslaved.
 - Some are healthy and some are chronically, painfully ill.

Life Is Not Fair

- God never said that life would be fair.
- God promises that if we seek Him, He will take care of us.
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Life Is Not Fair

- God never said that life would be fair.
- God promises that He will be fair in salvation.
 - Acts 10:34-35 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”

Life's Not Fair

- God never said that life would be fair.
- God promises that everyone will be judged fairly.
 - 2Cor. 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
- If we don't expect life to be fair, then we will not be as hurt with disappointment when unfairness happens.

We Cannot Change The Past

- Time for humankind moves forward, never backward.
- The truth is that once something is in the past, it is fixed forever, and it cannot be changed or undone.
- Once our words have been said and deeds have been done, we can't un-say or undo them
 - Psalm 141:3-4 - “Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. 4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity...”

We Cannot Change The Past

- What is in the past is out of reach, we have no access to that time, and there is nothing that can be done about it.
 - Phil. 3:13-14 - “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”
- If we think about the fact that we can't change the past, it will help us avoid bad decisions in the present for the future. It will empower us to move on to things we can do something about.

Words Have Meanings

- “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me”? NONSENSE!
- Words constitute one of three categories sins we can commit
 - Matt. 12:36-37 - “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Words Have Meanings

- Eph. 5:6 - “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”
- 1Tim. 6:3-4 - “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions”
- Learning that words have meanings will help us choose edifying words and avoid the harmful ones.

Choices Have Consequences

- Newton's third law of motion states: “For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.”
- The physical laws often reflect spiritual law
 - Gal. 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Choices Have Consequences

- Matt. 15:19 - “In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
- There is not a choice we make that doesn't first originate in the heart.
- Understanding that choices have consequences will help us measure our choices carefully before we make them

Someone Will Oppose Us For Doing What Is Right

- “No good deed goes unpunished.”
- Jesus told us that we are going to be opposed.
 - Matt. 5:11-12 - “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Someone Will Oppose Us For Doing What Is Right

- John 15:19 - “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”
- John 17:14 - “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”
- Understanding that we are going to be opposed for doing right will help us prepare to do right regardless.

Learning The Hard Way Hurts

- “Experience is the best teacher, but only the worst students need the best teacher.”
- There are two different ways to learn in life:
 - We learn from someone teaching us
 - We learn through experience
 - More often than not, we choose to learn through experience, and often those experiences are unpleasant and expensive.

Learning The Hard Way Hurts

- Scripture teaches us to learn the easy way.
 - Eph. 6:1-3 - “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: 3 that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

Learning The Hard Way Hurts

- Prov. 2:1-12 - “My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8 He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. 10 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, 11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things”

Learning The Hard Way Hurts

- Prov. 2:20-22 - “So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness. 21 For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; 22 But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.”
- When we understand that learning the hard way hurts, we will seek to learn from others first.

Things Change Unexpectedly

- Just when we think we have life figured out, when we think we have all of our ducks in a row, something happens to undo it.
 - Prov. 27:1 - “Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.”
 - Luke 12:19-20 - “And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’”

Things Change Unexpectedly

- We expect our lives to go one way, but they often end up quite different than we planned.
 - Ecc. 3:1-8 - “To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; 7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.”

Things Change Unexpectedly

- God's word does not change; it is perfectly suited for every contingency.
 - Heb. 13:8 - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
 - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
- Understanding that things change will adjust our expectations for the unpredictable future and prepare us to deal with the unexpected things according to God's word.

Everyone Dies

- “There are things that we don’t want to happen but have to accept, things we don’t want to know but have to learn, and people we can’t live without but have to let go.” (Nancy Stephan)
- The Bible teaches that everyone will eventually die.
 - Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”
 - Ecc. 3:20 - “All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust.”
- If we understand that everyone dies, we will purposefully seek to prepare ourselves and others, especially those we love, for death, too.

Things That Will Never Change In This World:

- Life is not fair.
- The past cannot be changed.
- Words have meanings.
- Choices have consequences.
- Someone will oppose Christians for doing what is right.
- Learning the hard way hurts.
- Things change unexpectedly.
- Everyone dies.

Some Things Never Change

Some things in life never change
Sometimes in life you don't find reasons
Some moments in life are not forgotten
And they become memories
Sometimes people in life are part of you
And those people are always special and unforgettable
When you let these people go
You never lose them
Because you find them living in you
(By an unknown author; www.idlewords.com)

Some Things Never Change

- And so it is with our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Col. 1:26-27 - “The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”