

Chapter 10

The first 3 verses of chapter 10 represent the 3 traditional categories of wisdom (vs. 1, wisdom as right knowledge, vs. 2 wisdom as right/ethical action, and vs. 3 religious wisdom/wisdom as right reverence for God. Vs. 9, integrity literally means straight or whole in the Hebrew.

Which of these proverbial sayings resonate most with your life?

My favorites: vs. 9, 12, 19, 21.

Chapter 11

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 3, 16-17 (“leaning in” comes straight from proverbs), 22, 24.

What are the virtues lifted up in this chapter: wisdom, righteousness, integrity, kindness, generosity, graciousness, persistence (16).

Chapter 12

Chapter 12’s main theme is the importance of wise/kind speech.

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 1, 10, 15,16,18, 26

Chapter 13

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 11,12,20.

Vs. 24 is one of the most famous and most poorly understood proverbs. Traditionally rendered as “Spare the rod, spoil the child,” this proverb has been used to justify corporal punishment and even child abuse. This is not how God intends for this passage to be used, nor is it what the original writers of proverbs intended! The writer is lifting up the paradox which comes up again and again through the wisdom literature that one hates ones children if one does not discipline them from an early age. Discipline is not the same as punishment. Discipline has to do with teaching and learning (Jesus called his own pupils “disciples”) and causing long-term

change in behavior. Punishment has to do with inflicting harm so that the child will be afraid to act in that way again, which psychology teaches today is not an effective means of changing behavior long-term. A loving parent is a parent who teaches and rebukes as necessary (this goes along with the many other proverbs that talk about how the wise love to be rebuked, because they want to grow and change for the better, this worldview should begin from an early age, as we associate good parenting with discipline.)

Chapter 14

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 13 (people are too complex to be known fully by their actions alone), 15, 22, 29, 30 (passion is better rendered as “jealousy”), 31.

Chapter 15

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 1, 4, 16, 17, 28 (think before you speak).