

Bible Study Lesson (Teacher)

SERIES: “IMPROVE OUR LIVES EACH DAY”

LESSON #3: “EVERY DAY WE HAVE A CHANCE TO CORRECT OUR MISTAKES.”

PROVERBS 17:10

Pastor Terrell Taylor, Instructor

INTRODUCTION: For the past three Wednesdays we have been teaching on the Series “IMPROVING OUR LIVES EACH DAY”. We have talked about:

1. Every day we have a chance to increase in our Knowledge
2. Every day we have a chance to increase our skills

Tonight we want begin our third lesson “**EVERY DAY WE HAVE A CHANCE TO CORRECT OUR MISTAKES**”.

Mistakes...there is not one person that has not made one. We are all guilty of not thinking things through or acting unwisely. Sometimes those actions can lead to some serious consequences and some major guilt. We all make mistakes and God knows that we are not perfect. God’s Word, the Bible, tells us that He still loves us in spite of our mistakes.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO MADE MISTAKES:

The Bible is certainly not a written record of **PERFECT PEOPLE**. In fact, it’s just the opposite. God’s Word points out in painful detail the Bible Characters who made mistakes such as:

Adam and Eve failed to obey God’s specific restrictions (Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:1-7).

Abram lied about his relationship to Sarai (Genesis 12:10-20).

Moses grew angry and struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock, therefore disobeying God (Numbers 20:7-12).

David committed adultery and murder (II Samuel 11-12).

Solomon started out well but turned from God (I Kings 3:5-9; I Kings 11).

Peter denied knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75).

Demas forsook Paul, having loved this world’s enticements (II Timothy 4:10).

Tonight I want to bring you a word of encouragement. In the midst of our foolish mistakes, God gives us the opportunity each day to correct them.

LESSON TEXT: Proverbs 17:10 (KJV) “A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.”

Solomon points out in this verse that there are “**WISE MEN AND FOOLISH MEN**”, and each one makes mistakes. The wise man will listen to Reproof. The fool won't listen to Reproof. Even if God laid an hundred Stripes (blows) on his back, it wouldn't do him or her any good. When you see someone prospering who is ungodly, the reason may be that he or she is such a fool that no matter what God would do to him, they would not change.

I. THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WISE AND FOOLISH

The difference between a wise person and a fool is not about:

Position – Plenty of business leaders, pastors, and politicians are fools. Equally, I have met wise executive assistants, and gardeners.

Intelligence – I know fools with Masters Degrees and Ph.Ds. Some of them teach in universities and have written books. Equally, I know wise people who never graduated from high school and a few who can't read.

Talent – I know fools who are successful entrepreneurs, worship leaders, and television commentators. I know wise people with average talent and modest income.

According to King Solomon, there is one major thing that differentiates a wise person from a fool: how he or she receives INSTRUCTION and CORRECTION. For example, Proverbs 1:5; 9:8–9; 10:8; 12:15; 15:12; 17:10; and 19:20.

a. A Wise Person:

1. **LISTENS.** Proverbs 19:20 (NCV) “Listen to advice and accept correction, and in the end you will be wise.”

Proverbs 1:5 (NCV) “Wise people can also listen and learn; even smart people can find good advice in these words.”

Proverbs 9:8-9 (NCV) “Do not correct those who make fun of wisdom, or they will hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you. Teach the wise, and they will become even wiser; teach good people, and they will learn even more.”

2. ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY without blame.

Ephesians 5:15 (NKJV) “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise...”

1 Samuel 25:24 (NCV) “She fell at David's feet and said, "My master, let the blame be on me!
Please let me talk to you. Listen to what I say."

Leviticus 5:5 “when anyone becomes aware that they are guilty in any of these matters, they must confess in what way they have sinned.”

3. CHANGES WITHOUT DELAY.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

- Change my Thinking Proverbs 4:23 to “Be careful how you think; for your life is shaped by your thoughts.” Proverbs 23:7 says “As a man thinks... so he is.”

b. A Foolish Person or Fool

A fool is someone who is unwise, lacks sense, and lacks judgement. Fools don't want to learn the truth. Fools are wise in their own eyes failing to take in wisdom and advice, which will be their downfall.

- Teaching: Proverbs 18:2-3 “Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions. Doing wrong leads to disgrace, and scandalous behavior brings contempt.”
- Mouth of a fool: Proverbs 10:18-19 “He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool. In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”
- They continue in their foolishness: Proverbs 26:11 “As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.” Proverbs 27:22 (NCV) “Even if you ground up a foolish person like grain in a bowl, you couldn't remove the foolishness.”
- Fools say there is no God: Psalm 53:1 “The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.”

II. TO AVOID THE CHARACTERISTIC OF A FOOL, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO DAILY TO CORRECT YOUR MISTAKES? Here are

1. Forgiving Yourself

This is one of the greatest hurdles for people who commit mistakes. When people sin, they know that God will forgive them if they confess it. *I John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* So why do we set a higher standard in forgiving ourselves? We keep resurrecting our mistakes from the grave just like some people who go fishing for the sins that God cast into the sea of forgetfulness. We must learn to forgive ourselves. Don’t we forgive others when they sin against us or make mistakes? Why then can we not forgive ourselves for making honest mistakes? If we never forgive ourselves, then we are tying ourselves to the past and attaching a ball and chain to our ankle, preventing us from going forward in our life.

2. Stop Looking Back

Paul, being human, must have surely made his share of mistakes. But what did Paul think about the past? Paul wrote, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14), because those who “run in such a way as to get the prize” (I Cor. 9:24c) never keep looking back; otherwise, they’ll stumble because they can’t see where they’re going. No one drives a car in reverse or drives on the road focusing primarily on the rearview mirror. We have to keep pressing ahead toward the prize of our high calling in Christ and run in such a way as to get the prize, not run in such a way that we keep looking over our shoulder (**Luke 9:62**).

3. Admit, Acknowledge, and Move On

I have made a lot of mistakes, but I admit them. If I have made a mistake in regard to someone else, I apologize to them and ask for their forgiveness. If they don’t forgive me, that’s okay. That’s their problem. If I make an honest, sincere, and genuine mistake about someone or something, it’s best to admit it to them and acknowledge it, ask for their forgiveness, and then move on from there. I can’t change how someone responds, only how I do.

CONCLUSION

Learn from your mistakes, forgive yourself, stop looking back, acknowledge your mistakes, and move forward. You are not your failures. Try to see yourself in the way that God sees you, and that is that you are loved unconditionally, regardless of your imperfections. That's what grace is all about, isn't it?