

LISTENING TO DAD

Proverbs 4

Today let's listen in and learn from Solomon's sayings to his sons.

I. BE ATTENTIVE (1-2)

- A Father's Plea

A. THE COMMANDS

1. Hear: This is first because if there's no hearing, there's generally no learning.
2. Give Attention: Actively listen carefully > Illus: A mother tuned in for her child's cry
3. Do not Abandon Instruction: Don't leave it behind or give it up

B. THE REASONS

1. The father gives sound teaching (2a)
2. The sons gain understanding (1b)

C. AN EXAMPLE - II Timothy 3:14-17

1. A Reminder (14-15)
2. The Reason (16-17)

II. BE MINDFUL (3-9)

- A Father's Reflections

A. AS A CHILD ... (3)

- The father (Solomon) thinks back on his childhood

B. I WAS TAUGHT ... (4)

1. By repetition
2. To remember
3. And to obey

C. TO ACQUIRE WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING ... (5-9)

1. The Content (5, 7)
 - a. Wisdom: Discernment > Seeing things for what they are
 - b. Understanding: Insight > Knowing what to do with what you see
2. The Actions (5-8)
 - a. Acquire (5, 7)
 - b. Don't forget or forsake (5b-6a)
 - c. Love her (6b)
 - d. Prize her (8a)

3. The Benefits (6-9)

- a. Protection (6) > Wisdom will guard and watch over you
- b. Promotion (8) > Exaltation and honor or recognition and respect
- c. Pleasure (9) > A wreath of grace and crown of beauty

D. "SO I SOUGHT IT!" - I Kings 3:5-9

- It's good to know what you don't know ... so then you'll know what you need.

III. **BE CAREFUL** (10-19)

- A Father's Concern

A. FOLLOW THE WAY OF WISDOM (10-13)

1. Keep Up! (10)

- a. The Emphasis: Hear and accept
- b. The Enjoyment: A long and pleasant life

2. Keep On! (11-13)

- a. The past (11) > I have directed and led you toward righteousness
- b. The promise (12) > Unimpeded steps and a fall-free run if you do as you're instructed
- c. The passion (13) > Grip and guard wisdom's lifesaver
 - 1) Don't let go! I've shown you (11) now you show me! (13)
 - 2) Personalize this instruction: Make it your own

B. FORSAKE THE PATH OF THE WICKED (14-19)

1. Keep Out! (14-17)

- a. The Prohibitions (14-15)
- b. The Problems (16-17)

2. Keep in Mind ... (18-19)

- a. The intenseness of righteousness (18)
- b. The denseness of darkness (19)

IV. **BE HEALTHY** (20-27)

- A Father's Prescription

A. DEVOTION NEEDED (20-22)

1. The Responsibility (20-21)

- a. Listen (20) > There's more words to consider... I'm just getting started ...
- b. Look (21a) > Write them down for continued review
- c. Learn (21b) > Hide them in your heart - See Psalm 119:11

2. The Result (22)

- Life and health

B. DISCIPLINE REQUIRED (23-27)

1. Guard your workshop (23)
 - The heart is your ethical and spiritual workshop [From Fredrick Delitzsch, "Proverbs," p. 115]
2. Control your words (24)
 - Nothing deceitful (lying) or devious (mean)
3. Watch your ways (25-27)
 - a. No distractions (25)
 - b. No deviation (26-27)

CONCLUSION:**After listening in on Solomon's sayings, consider these summary points:**

1. A thoughtful leader is needed
 - A father who teaches God's inspired Word to his children
2. A focused learner is required
 - A child who is ready to listen, learn and live out God's Word
3. Two fellow learners are observed
 - Here are a father and son who are leaning on God's Word and God's Spirit to live a worthwhile and righteous life.