

Book of Proverbs Series
Message 40 – Precepts and Warnings – Part 5

Introduction:

Life often tempts us to repay evil with evil.

When wronged, our natural instinct is to seek justice—or sometimes even revenge. However, in Proverbs 24:28-29, God calls us to a higher standard: a life of integrity, truthfulness, and forgiveness.

1. Integrity in Our Testimony - V.28

The Bible frequently warns against false accusations and dishonest speech.

In ancient times, a false witness could destroy a person's life. Even today, gossip, slander, and deceit can ruin reputations, careers, and relationships.

- God calls us to truthfulness. Lying to gain advantage or to harm another person violates His will (Exodus 20:16).
- Integrity is non-negotiable. As followers of Christ, we are to speak honestly, even when it is inconvenient.
- Jesus is our example. In 1 Peter 2:22, it says, "*He committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth.*"

Ephesians 4:25

Thought:

Are we careful with our words?

Do we avoid exaggeration, manipulation, or misleading statements? Our testimony should always reflect Christ.

Proverbs 12:22

2. Resisting the Urge for Revenge - v.29

The world teaches, "An eye for an eye." But Jesus teaches, "*Turn the other cheek*" (Matthew 5:38-39).

Revenge may feel justified, but it often leads to greater harm—for both the offender and ourselves.

- Revenge does not bring peace. Harboring resentment poisons our hearts.
- God is the true Judge. Romans 12:17-19 reminds us, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.*"
- Forgiveness frees us. When we forgive, we release the weight of anger and allow God to heal us.

1 Peter 3:9

Thought:

If someone has wronged you, will you trust God with justice, or will you take matters into your own hands?

3. Responding with Grace - v.29

This is the mindset of the flesh. We want others to suffer as we have suffered, however, Jesus calls us to a radical response: grace.

- Jesus repaid evil with good. On the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them."
- We are called to overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21 instructs us, "*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*"
- Love is the answer. Proverbs 25:21-22 teaches, "*If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*"

Thought:

How can we show love instead of retaliation? Through prayer, kindness, and leaving justice in God's hands.

Deuteronomy 32:35

Proverbs 20:22

Luke 6:27-28

Conclusion: Living Above the World's Standards

Proverbs 24:28-29 challenge us to rise above human nature. God calls us to truthfulness, trust, and grace.

Bottom Line:

Integrity and forgiveness reflect God's wisdom. Instead of seeking revenge or spreading falsehood, we are called to truthfulness, trust in God's justice, and responding to others with grace. Let God handle justice while we walk in righteousness.

Key Take Away

- Commit to speaking truth, even when it's hard.
- Leave justice to God rather than seeking revenge.
- Show grace as Jesus has shown grace to us.

As we walk in integrity and forgiveness, we reflect Christ's love and bring glory to His name. May our lives be a testimony of His truth and mercy.