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**Day 139 – May 19**

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## **Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)**

***Sincere Motivation***

***Concern for Others***

***Concern for Self***

### **Readings: Proverbs**

By topic:

- Sincere Motivation:
  - Motive and the Heart – 15:11; 16:2; 17:3; 20:11, 27; 21:2; 27:19
  - False Worship – 15:8, 29; 21:3, 27
  - Duplicity – 6:12-15; 10:10-11; 11:3; 16:30; 20:14; 23:6-8; 26:23-26
- Concern for others:
  - Love and Faithfulness – 3:3-4; 16:6; 20:6; 25:19
  - Love, Hatred and Compassion – 10:12; 15:17; 17:5; 24:17-18; 25:21-22
  - Kindness and Mercy – 11:16-17; 12:10, 25; 21:10
  - Overstaying Welcome – 25:16-17
- Concern for self:
  - Pride and Humility – 11:2; 12:9; 13:7, 10; 15:25; 16:5, 18-19; 18:12; 19:10; 20:9; 21:4, 24; 22:4; 25:27; 26:16; 27:2, 21; 29:23
  - Selfishness – 18:1
  - Jealousy – 27:4
  - Envy – 14:30; 24:19-20
  - Greed – 28:25

## ***Reflections:***

- As the proverbs move to matters of the heart, we see insights that find closer alignment to the teachings of Jesus. Through Jesus we see that God cares nothing of the external appearances but cares truly only about the heart. In this way all forms of “looking good externally” but then holding judgment, greed, and pride within your heart is exposed as detestable to God. We will find that the people most likely to do this are religious people who obsess about appearances but have hearts full of pride and judgment. (See Matthew 23)
- The next section focuses in on the power of love and even references enemy love. Here we see what will emerge as not the exception but the norm in Christ. Although it is mentioned briefly we do see even here in the Old Testament a foreshadowing of what we will discover through Jesus. “If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head (heat of conviction) and the Lord will reward you.”
- Following this section we see a focus on pride verses humility. Again this teaching foreshadows what will be the norm when Jesus takes center stage. God’s heart is ultimately for the humble, poor and needy. The story of God is God revealing to the proud and arrogant rulers in the spiritual realms as well as the physical realms that he is a God of grace for the humble, the lover of the weak and the rescuer of the poor and needy. Again we will see in Christ and in the Church the complete rejection of pride and self-righteousness.