

The House Filled with Riches

Proverbs 24:3-4

Introduction

1. No advertisement seeks to attract people to a product with a portrayal of a disjointed, depressed, unhappy family. Rather, those families portrayed in the many commercials we see are smiling, content, loving, and happy.
2. Such is what any family desires – a home that is flourishing, healthy, and stable.
3. However, most portrayals of families in the entertainment and advertising world of today are bold faced lies:
 - a. Materialistic, superficial, unnatural/perverted (LGBTQ), etc.
 - b. We must be able to differentiate – like in other areas – between the real and the fake. (I.e. is that really what brings families happiness, stability, etc.?)
4. **Proverbs 24:3-4** – it is by wisdom and knowledge that households flourish in stability and see great rewards.
 - a. This wisdom and knowledge is obviously that which is attributed to God, and gained from Him.
5. If we are to build and establish our homes in the way they need to be we must gain, and yield to the wisdom and knowledge of God.
- I. The House that Puts God First
 - A. Wisdom and knowledge are needed to build and establish the house – **Proverbs 1:7** – the fear of God is the beginning of such.
 - B. **Matthew 6:33** – seeking God’s kingdom first.
 - a. **“these things”** – material necessities – **(v. 25)**
 - b. Ironically, what often prevents a home from being built up and established is the consuming worry and preoccupation with things we deem essential to such stability and health of our home.
 - c. Such worry and preoccupation will cause harm:
 - i. **(vv. 19-21)** – mixing of priorities – should prioritize the spiritual.
 - ii. **(vv. 22-23)** – division of focus leading to the conquest by evil.
 - iii. **(v. 24)** – negligence of serving the One who can ensure such stability and health.
 - d. Worry does nothing for us – **(v. 27)** – but putting God first takes care of everything.
 - C. The Value in the Home of Putting God First
 - a. As commanded to Israel – **Deuteronomy 6:1-5** – they would flourish and prosper by focusing all their energy to the service of God.
 - i. **(vv. 4-5)** – God is ONE, and WE FOR HIM, thus, every fiber of our being should be devoted to His service. (Going into a land with many gods.)
 - ii. While we aren’t tempted to serve images, there are many things that threaten to come between us and God.
 - b. Putting God first leads to many blessings from Him – **Proverbs 3:9-10** – speaking of material possessions dedicated to God (OT tithing, firstfruits)

- i. Context – the verses speak of material possessions, and we should prioritize those to the service of God. (THINK – contribution, aid of others)
 - ii. Spiritually – God has given us more possessions than the simply physical. We should honor God first and foremost with all that we have, both within ourselves and without, and we will see a return from Him – the flourishing of our home as we dedicate it in service to God.
- II. The House that Values God’s Wisdom
 - A. Involved in putting God first is valuing His wisdom, thus, putting that first – **Proverbs 3:5-8**
 - a. The healthy home does not come from doing what one thinks is best for their home.
 - b. The healthy home comes from doing what God says is best for the home and trusting in that.
 - B. Paul’s acknowledgement that true riches of wisdom are in God, not man – **Colossians 2:1-4, 8**
 - a. We should not seek to build our homes up by the wisdom of men (that of others or ourselves), but with the wisdom and knowledge of God and Christ.
 - C. We must be able to differentiate between worldly wisdom and heavenly wisdom – **James 3:13-18**
 - a. Worldly wisdom:
 - i. **“bitter envy”** – pikros zēlos (zeal)
 - 1. zēlos – zeal
 - 2. **“and if bitter zeal ye have” (YLT)**
 - 3. Zeal that is misdirected leads to bitter results. (**cf. Romans 10:2** – like a fire without a fireplace)
 - 4. While “envy” (as if directed toward others – jealousy) may be contextually a proper rendering, it is but a form of misdirected zeal which yields bitter results.
 - ii. **“self-seeking”** – selfish ambition – all about self-promotion and interests.
 - iii. **(v. 17)** – confusion (disorder – opposition to authority) and evil (sin) is there.
 - b. Heavenly wisdom:
 - i. **“willing to yield”** – *eupreithes* (εὐπειθής, 2138), “ready to obey” (*eu*, “well,” *peithomai*, “to obey, to be persuaded” (VINE)
 - ii. That which is willing to submit to God’s ways especially.
 - c. Much of the advice concerning the home from the educated elitists is fueled by misdirected zeal seated in self-centeredness. It will not lead to a spiritually prosperous home.
 - i. Marriage, parenting, etc.

- d. Only the wisdom that is malleable in compliance with God’s direction will yield the needed results.
 - D. **Romans 12:2** – we must be willing to go a different direction than the world and prove that God’s ways are best.
 - a. **Isaiah 55:8-9** – we must possess this mindset in all areas, but especially in our domestic affairs.
 - b. In order to have a healthy home we must value God’s wisdom above all else.
- III. The Riches that Fill Such a House
- A. **Proverbs 24:3-4** – wisdom tells us that if we build and establish our house by God’s wisdom and knowledge it will yield incredible treasures.
 - a. I.e. doing things God’s way is the best, and the proof is in the pudding.
 - b. What are some treasures that fill the homes directed by God’s word?
 - B. A Healthy and Happy Marriage
 - a. An understanding of interdependency – **Genesis 2:18** – God saw that man needed woman.
 - i. **Genesis 2:24** – one flesh – the two together are one, but when one is missing (in any area) they are incomplete.
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 11:11-12** – different roles, but not inferior roles, neither is independent (things a woman can and must do that a man can’t, and vice versa).
 - b. Not selfish, but selfless – **Philippians 2:3-4** – each needs and wants are taken care of and fulfilled when each possesses this mindset.
 - i. **(v. 5)** – as they have the mind of Christ.
 - c. Following the greatest example – **Ephesians 5:22-33** – Submission and authority, love and respect.
 - i. A formula for an unhealthy and unhappy marriage is for one or the other spouse to be filling a role God never intended them to fill.
 - ii. Marriages are successful as they yield to the Designer’s blueprint.
 - C. Thriving, Healthy, Happy, and Obedient Children
 - a. Following the wisdom of God in the way a child should go – **Proverbs 22:6**
 - i. The way they should go is God’s way.
 - ii. The only way to direct them in such is God’s wisdom.
 - b. Loving properly through discipline – **Proverbs 13:24**
 - i. **Proverbs 19:18** – physical discipline while there is time, and for their future.
 - ii. **Proverbs 22:15** – physical discipline to purge foolishness.
 - iii. **Proverbs 23:13-14** – physical discipline with the understanding that it will not ruin the child but save the child.
 - iv. **Proverbs 29:15** – physical discipline lest the child be abandoned (left to himself) leading to shame.

- c. Training and admonition of the Lord leads to children who obey because it is right in the sight of God – **Ephesians 6:1-4**
 - d. Such instruction and training will teach them to value the wisdom of parents who seek God’s wisdom – **Proverbs 1:8-9**
 - i. There is not a parent who values their child’s disobedience/rebelliousness.
 - ii. All parents desire children who value their words.
 - iii. This will only come by the wisdom and knowledge of God being emphasized.
- D. There are many other treasures that fill a house that is built by God’s wisdom and established by His knowledge and understanding.

Conclusion

1. Everyone wants their family to prosper in all facets of life. We want healthy and happy homes.
2. Such a home does not just happen by accident. Rather, it takes the careful thought and diligence in coming to a possession of God’s wisdom and acting by that wisdom.
3. The many “precious and pleasant riches” that fill a house built and established on God’s word are invaluable, and impossible to replicate with any other resource.