

Proverbs: Great Advice for Everyday Living

Lesson 25 - Trust Me!

Warm up -

1. What is the craziest thing you've ever done?
2. Which of the following activities have you tried (or would like to try?)

Do you like doing things in which you have no control?

- parasailing
- mountain climbing
- skydiving
- bungee jumping
- other:

3. Who tries to control your life? How do you feel about these people?

Lesson -

I've heard that Christianity is the easiest religion in the world because it costs nothing. On the other hand, people have also said that Christianity is the most difficult religion in the world because it costs everything. Which is correct?

The fact is, many people find Christianity far too costly. They just can't bring themselves to give their hearts to God. Why is that? Because they want to stay in control.

Proverbs puts it this way: "Lean not on your own understanding" (3:5). Don't rely on yourself, it says. Trust God instead. But that's easier said than done. We desperately want to call the shots. We have a hard time with anybody telling us what to do. Take Dave. He can't stand his parents anymore. "They're always telling me what to do," he complains. "They treat me like a little kid - they've got rules for everything." So Dave breaks 'em as fast as they can make 'em. He stays away from home for days at a time. He smokes pot and drinks. He steals from his parents. He skips school. He's in control.

There's a little of Dave in all of us. We hate to have anybody telling us what to do. But control is exactly what God wants from us. Don't get me wrong. God's perfectly willing to let us call the shots ourselves. And to let us experience the consequences. But because God loves us, he offers this invitation: Trust me. Let me be in charge of your life.

If you're willing to trust God, you're in for an adventure. Once you let God sit in the driver's seat, who knows where you'll go?

Read Proverbs 3:5-10

1. As you read, look for what you must give to the Lord.

2. What parts of our lives does God want control of?
3. What are the benefits of submitting to God's control over our lives?
4. What part of this advice do you find easy to accept? What part is difficult? Why?
5. Why does God want complete control of our lives?
6. Are there areas of your life over which you are trying to maintain control? Explain why it's difficult to let go of control in these areas. Share some ideas about how to let God take control.
7. What do you find encouraging and/ or discouraging about this passage?
8. What does it mean to be "wise in your own eyes"? How can we avoid this pitfall?
9. What motivates you to bring God your "firstfruits"? What are your firstfruits?