

## Message #104

## Proverbs 25:1-7

**A WISE SOCIETY WILL KEEP A WISE PERSPECTIVE OF LEADERSHIP KNOWING THAT THIS WILL BRING GOD'S BLESSINGS.**

Wise leaders will not misuse their authority and wise people will keep a healthy view of leaders. Solomon enjoyed a prosperous reign for 40 years (II Chron. 9:30). During this time Israel prospered, the temple was built, wealth poured in and God had been honored. After the death of Solomon, his son, Rehoboam, reigned (II Chron. 9:31), who was not nearly a wise leader like his father. Partially because of this the kingdom was in turmoil and Israel divided and had her own king, Jeroboam (I Kings 12:20). The conflicts continued for about 250 years until Hezekiah came to power in 716-715 B.C. He was a godly king who knew the importance of obeying God's Word. He tore down idols, repaired and cleansed the temple, restored worship and unified the nation to such a level that it had not known since the days of Solomon (II Chron. 30:24-26). **It was leadership that made the difference.** One of the first things the men who surrounded Hezekiah did was to put together some of the proverbs of Solomon that pertained to leadership. The word "transcribe" (Prov. 25:1) means these men copied these proverbs from one manuscript and transferred them to another (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 663). **Do you see what is needed to be a good leader? A careful understanding of God's written Word!**

**POINT #1** – A wise leader becomes honorable by his work of investigation. **25:2**

The word "glory" which is the same word that occurs twice in the verse is one that means very heavy and honorable in the sense of displaying the full weight of honor and glory. According to God, a leader is most glorious when he is investigating the things of God to the level God permits one to understand them. Investigating the deep things of God is not a high priority for most in leadership and that is why many govern in a very foolish way. Hezekiah loved God's Word (I Kings 3:9, 28; 4:29, 31; Ezra 4:15-19; 5:17; 6:1).

**POINT #2** – A wise leader has a heart that is unsearchable. **25:3**

Here is the first of several comparison proverbs (25:11-14, 18-20, 23, 25-26, 28). The purpose of the truth in this verse is twofold: 1) Show a leader he must not ever stop learning; 2) Show the people there are some things only a leader will know.

**POINT #3** – A wise leader removes impurities from his kingdom. **25:4-5**

The verb "take away" (v. 4, 5) means remove. The idea of removing "dross from the silver" is removing impure metal, which process is graphically described in Ezek. 22:17-22. The wise leader will spot and remove evil from his kingdom so that it will be pure.

**POINT #4** – A wise person does not proudly project himself in front of leadership. **25:6-7**

A person who proudly projects himself as being magnificent in the presence of leaders, will eventually be totally humiliated (v. 7). This humiliation God will give to one that proudly or falsely projects himself to be something he isn't.

Leadership is very important to Israel, a nation, state, city, church or home. Wise leaders stay committed to carefully understanding and applying God's Word in their leadership world.