

BIBLICAL WISDOM #2 - RESPONDING TO MANIPULATION

PROVERBS 26:1-12

Once the foolishness of manipulation is identified, it must be dealt with directly in accordance with biblical truth.

I. JESUS RESPONDS TO THE RELIGIOUS CROWD

A. To the Pharisees LUKE 6:1-5

1. Notice the "why" question - Not interrogative
 - a. Accusation designed to embarrass and shame
 - b. No right answer if you accept the premise
2. He gave it back to them and their "law" (vs. 4)
 - a. God never said you can't crack open a nut
 - b. If David could be excepted, so could God!

B. To the Chief Priests LUKE 20:19-26

1. Notice the planning and the spying (vs. 20)
2. Notice the empty flattery ("teachest truly")
3. Notice the binary trap! Both answers discredit.
4. Speaks to THEIR responsibility - "Render [THOU]"
5. Don't gripe about taxes and withhold your heart

C. To the Scribes MATT. 15:1-9

1. Another "why" question - Not wanting an answer
2. Jesus points out their hypocrisy
 - a. "Can't give you a ride to the airport, Mom, because my car is consecrated unto God."
 - b. Which is worse: Eating with unwashed hands or serving with uncleansed hearts?
3. The Bible says HONOR thy father and thy mother

II. JESUS RESPONDS TO HIS OWN

A. Martha and Mary: A perfect Bible example LUKE 10:38-42

1. Do you not CARE? (Seeking sympathy and guilt)
2. Principle: Keep God the focus of your life!

B. Joseph and Mary: LUKE 2:41-49

1. Why hast thou thus dealt with us? (Emotion)
2. Principle: More than anyone, they knew who He is

C. Peter: JOHN 21:20-22

1. Lashing out after a rebuke with "whataboutism"
2. Principle: Mind your own business (MATT. 7:5)

III. JESUS TEACHES US HOW

- A. He can judge hearts. WE cannot! (MATT. 7:16 & 20)
- B. Keep calm, think carefully to answer (PROV. 15:28)

MATT. 7:5 - "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

MATT. 7:16 & 20 - "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" 20 - "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

PROV. 15:28 - "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things."