

6/23/23

## Practical Lessons from Robinson Crusoe

“My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother” (Proverbs 1:8)

### Taking Advice

1 Kings 12:6 & 8 – (6) “Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, “How do you advise me to answer these people?”...”(8) But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.”

### The Middle Station of Life

#### The problem with being poor:

Proverbs 10:15 – “The rich man's wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty.”

Proverbs 19:4 & 7 – (4) “Wealth makes many friends, But the poor is separated from his friend... (7) All the brothers of the poor hate him; How much more do his friends go far from him! He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him..”

#### The problem with being rich:

Ecclesiastes 5:12 – “The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.”

Proverbs 13:8 – “The rich can pay a ransom for their lives, but the poor won't even get threatened. “ (NLT)

## The middle station:

Ecclesiastes 4:6 – “Better a handful with quietness Than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind.”

Ecclesiastes 6:9 – “Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.”

## Accept the Reproach of Both Men and Nature

“And, young man,” said he, “depend upon it, if you do not go back, wherever you go, you will meet with nothing but disasters and disappointments, till your father’s words are fulfilled upon you.”

## Repent Quickly

“These wise and sober thoughts continued **all the while the storm lasted...**”

“...and in that one night’s wickedness I drowned all my repentance, all my reflections upon my past conduct, all my resolutions for the future. In a word, as the sea was returned to its smoothness of surface and settled calmness by the abatement of that storm, so the hurry of my thoughts being over, my fears and apprehensions of being swallowed up by the sea being forgotten, and the current of my former desires returned, I entirely forgot the vows and promises that I made in my distress.”

“All the good counsels of my parents, my father’s tears and my mother’s entreaties, came now fresh into my mind; and my conscience, **which was not yet come to the pitch of hardness to which it has since**, reproached me with the contempt of advice, and the breach of my duty to God and my father. “

...”they are not ashamed to sin, and yet are ashamed to repent; not ashamed of the action for which they ought justly to be esteemed fools, but are ashamed of the returning, which only can make them be esteemed wise men.”

(NKJV used unless otherwise noted)

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