

12- Road Skills – Problem Solving

08/15/2010 - Jim Johnson

Let's take the truth in the book of Proverbs and organize it so that we have a fairly broad and yet detailed approach to solving the problems that confront us. We do this by working through a series of questions.



Q1: Do I see any problems _____. (Prov. 27:23-24)

Solomon tells the herder to be constantly aware of the condition of his flock because his future prosperity rests on this information.

Likewise we need to diligently watch over the things and relationships that God has entrusted to us. A small problem caught, doesn't become a big one.

Q2: What is the _____?– (22:13a)

The person in the proverb discovered a lion outside. He decided that it was a problem. We need to recognize a problem for what it is. Most problems seem to enjoy making an appearance and aggravating us. But we tend to procrastinate – and postpone doing anything about them.

Q3: What may happen if the problem is not _____? (22:13)

This is where you count the potential costs. The sluggard knew that he would be eaten by the lion if nothing were done about it. In the same way, we need to ask ourselves, "What could possibly happen if I don't take care of this problem right now?" When we count the potential costs – we are borrowing pain from the future which tends to motivate us into action today. (16:26)

Q4: What _____ do I need and where do I get it? (11:14; 20:18)

a. Find an advisor who _____ the Lord. (9:10)

b. Find an advisor who is _____. (20:29; 23:22)

c. Find an advisor who has a good _____. (22:1)

d. Find an advisor who is _____.

e. Get more than one _____. (11:14)

Q5: What does God's _____ say about it? (30:5)

When the Word does speak to an issue, we want to be very careful to drink up every bit of information we can. Get yourself a good study Bible, maybe even a topical Bible. And make sure you have a concordance so you can search out various themes as we have done with this Proverbs series.

Q6: What are the possible _____ for this problem? (20:18)

Not every problem in life can be solved but there is a lot we can do with 95% of them. You need to start with a plan. Better yet is to create several possible solutions to your problem, which will enable you to compare and contrast and then choose the best one. Get out a legal pad & create a chart like this & then brainstorm.

First Option _____

Strengths

Weaknesses

Provide a second and a third option as well, contrasting the strengths (pros) and weaknesses (cons) of each.

Q7: Have I _____ for wisdom and help? (15:29; James 1:5-6)

Our choices matter to God. Therefore, we should expect Him to give us the wisdom we need to make a wise one. Seeking it in prayer is essential.

Q8: Which _____ do I choose? (19:21)

At some point, you will need to choose. If we take the information we have gathered, and bathe it in prayer – God will make it clear which option to choose.

Q9: How and when do I _____? (20:5)

So you have a plan now. You need to decide how and when you will start. Some of us can create a plan, but fail to implement it. The wise person will prioritize the steps, and set a hard and fast date on which to tackle the project.

Q10: _____ do I plan to be finished? (26:15)

Some of us are starters, but not finishers. Something that would help us to overcome this is to set a hard and fast date by which your project will be completed.

CONCLUSION

So now you have a management plan for the problems that come your way. But what if you implement your plan and you fail to solve the problem? That’s the beauty of having created 3 original options. You can go to option number two if you need and then even number three if necessary.

The wise person wisely and _____ tackles problems as they come, knowing that to ignore or postpone them is to multiply the damage.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Which of the problem solving steps tend to come to you naturally?
2. Which do you tend to ignore?
3. Which simple problem will you be going to tackle with this problem solvers worksheet?