

3- Road Skills – Teachable

05/30/2010 - Jim Johnson

The book of Proverbs was given to make us wise. The factor that determines whether we grow in wisdom has to do with how teachable we are.

1. If you tend to _____ more than you listen you are probably unteachable. (10:8)
2. If you tend to jump to _____ you are probably unteachable. (18:13)
3. If you believe that you _____ it all then you are probably unteachable. (12:15)
4. If you tend to repeat your _____ you are probably unteachable. (26:11)
5. If you tend to defend rather than _____ your thinking then you are probably unteachable. (18:2)

The costs of being unteachable are terribly high. In Proverbs 1:23-33, wisdom is personified and speaks to the unteachable person, promising untold heartache and grief, and little help once the problems come. The wise person will be a teachable person.

A. A teachable person has the right _____.

1. Believing that God has _____ us to learn. (Prov. 20:12)
2. Knowing it is a _____ privilege to be able to learn. (Prov. 25:2)
3. Knowing that Wisdom is a _____ commodity. (Prov. 23:23)

B. The teachable person has the right _____.

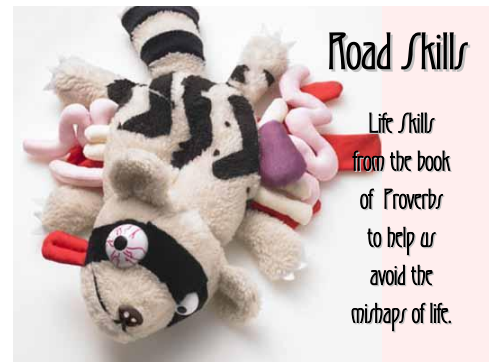
There is a certain approach to wisdom that determines whether we are teachable or not. In other words, how do we get to wisdom. Prov. 22:17-18 has five actions that help understand what it means to be teachable.

“Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your mind to my knowledge; 18 For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, That they may be ready on your lips”.

1. The Teachable person will _____ wisdom.

Verse 17 begins with *“Incline your ear”* to wisdom. (naah) This means to stop what you are doing, turn aside and seek wisdom wherever it may be, and from whomever it would come. It is to hunger for wisdom and pursue it with all your heart. So where do we seek this wisdom?

- a. _____ are good. (Prov. 23:22)



- b. _____ **counselors are good.** (Prov. 1:5)
- c. _____ **counsel is superb.** (Prov. 30:5)
- d. _____ **is a deep source of wisdom.** (Prov. 12:1)

2. The Teachable person will _____ wisdom.

The second verb in Prov. 22:17 is “hear.” The teachable person really listens and hears what is being taught. This means that we need to lay aside our own agendas, and preconceived ideas. We need to allow our cherished preferences in life to be challenged - and approach the information with an open mind.

3. The Teachable person will _____ wisdom.

The third verb in Prov. 22:17 is “apply” To apply it “is to set it or to fix it.” It is to take what you have learned and then implement it. It is to make some tangible changes in the way you do life. Not only should there be a plan, there should be follow through on the plan. (20:5)

4. The Teachable person will _____ wisdom.

The fourth verb in Prov. 22:17 is “keep.” It essentially means “to retain” Don’t let wisdom go once you got it. We tend to implement and practice wisdom, as long as we are in pain. Take the pain away and we revert to our old foolish and lazy habits. The teachable person, implements change and retains it over the long haul.

5. The Teachable person will _____ wisdom.

The fifth verbal idea in 22:17 is to have wisdom “ready on your lips” This tells us that we should so process words and experiences of wisdom that we are able to articulate them and pass them on to others. By interacting with others, we learn how to apply wisdom in different ways and we also will find ourselves more conscientious in the application of truth because the teacher is held accountable for what they teach.

Conclusion: If we are teachable – we would be wise. If we are not, we are but fools.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

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

1. Think through the five markers of the unteachable. Any of them apply to you?
2. Think through the five stages of teachability. Which ones are strengths for you, and which are weaknesses?
3. Choose the greatest challenge before you at the moment. Look for wisdom and process it according to the five stages of teachability.