

CHANGE - PAY ATTENTION!

Scripture used: Prov 27:12 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

We continue our series on "Change." Pastor Hurmon used a frightful word picture of motorcycle riders who engaged in risky behaviors at excessive speeds and ended up losing limbs or suffering death. Those were the consequences resulting from dangerous actions foolishly chosen by certain riders. Those riders failed to think through the link of their actions and the possible consequences. Most likely they never thought it could happen to them! Pain from consequences suffered in life have taught the prudent to pay attention to danger signs and take careful actions to prevent being clobbered. Pain and fear are great teachers, but the lessons can be harsh and lasting.

Driving instructors teach us to pay attention while driving. If our eyes and attention drift, we are likely to drive towards whatever has captured our focus. In our lives, what do we pay attention to and what do we ignore or avoid? The Bible teaches us that change is made possible by answering those questions. Together, let's explore some of the hidden insights of lasting change.

KEY POINTS

- 1) When it comes to change, there are two groups: the prudent or wise and the simpleton or naive and foolish. The prudent foresees and acts; the simpleton foresees but blindly goes forward.
 - a. Both the prudent and simpleton are on the same road. It may be a financial road or relational road or one related to physical health.
 - b. Both look ahead.
 - c. Both see danger.
- 2) The prudent is distinguished from the simpleton in how they respond to what they see. The prudent sees danger and stops or seeks refuge. The simpleton rushes forward and gets clobbered.
- 3) Paying attention requires us to see the connection between what we do today and what happens to us tomorrow. A solid look at reality is required when paying attention.
 - a. The simpleton blindly goes forward. They see the danger and then close their eyes and pretend not to see. The prudent will react to what they see and seek refuge or stop.
 - b. This blindness can occur at work, at home or in our families with our children.
- 4) Key questions must be asked and issues addressed.
 - a. In light of our past experiences, and future hopes and dreams, is this wise?
 - b. Responding in a wise manner must be the norm!
- 5) Every decision has an outcome. Sometimes the outcomes are deserved based on the decisions made, and at other times the outcomes are the result of life being unfair.
 - a. Ask the right questions, but acknowledge God may allow the unfair to happen.
 - b. Although you may have been naive or foolish yesterday does NOT mean you must be foolish today! You may appear embarrassed, but there can be relief in acting prudently.
 - c. The prudent sees and responds wisely. The prudent pays attention!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** Describe a time when you got clobbered. What warning signs did you choose to ignore?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** We all get clobbered at times and wish we were more prudent. What steps should the naive simpleton take to become the wise prudent person? Which step should be first? And the next?
- 3) **DO and PRAY** Select one important path you are currently walking. What signs up ahead do you see? Signs of warning or trouble? STOP! Pray: Lord, help me to see trouble long before it comes. Give me the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it. What prudent next step can you take this week which will help to prevent you from being clobbered?