



Both Sides Of A Matter

Importance Of Investigation And Patience In A Matter

“He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.”
(Proverbs 16:20)

1. Wise handling of a matter gains as many facts as possible.
2. Then trust the Lord to find the truth and exercise wisdom.

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”
(Proverbs 25:2)

1. We, unlike God, are not omniscient or all-knowing.
2. God not only knows what is going on, but also what the end of the situation will be, the end from the beginning.
3. God knows the heart of every individual involved, their motives and intentions.
 - a. He knows what to conceal and what to reveal.
 - b. We do not.
4. We have an expression for hearing only part of a problem and making a decision based on a partial understanding:
 - a. It is “running off half-cocked.”
 - b. A revolver is dangerous when cocked and left that way.
 - c. It can easily or accidentally go off and hurt someone.
 - d. So is a person who hears one side of an issue.
 - e. He believes the person without hearing the other side, then runs off in anger to defend them.
 - f. This person is poised to hurt himself and others.

The Folly Of A Quick Reaction

“He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him.” (Proverbs 18:13)

1. It is very difficult to hear one side of an issue when counseling about a marriage or family problem.
2. I became weary of hearing a woman talk about her husband’s lack of compassion and uncaring attitude. But she seemed so sincere that I found myself believing her without hearing her husband’s side. Once I met and walked with the husband, I was surprised to hear his side and see his sincerity. I’m glad I waited.
3. There are always two sides to a situation.

4. I was glad I didn't run off "half-cocked."
5. You will always end up looking good and offering real help when you hear a matter out (Proverbs 16:20).

A Quick Conclusion Can Lead To An Offense

Three Types Of Offenses:

1. Direct – Someone offends you:
 - a. Something was said to you or about you.
 - b. It may be true (criticism) or not true (a lie or hearsay).
 - c. You see a look, body language, or quiet disregard and you read into it and come to a wrong conclusion.
2. Given – You criticize and offend someone:
 - a. It may be intentional.
 - b. It may be unintentional.
 - c. We all say things we regret and wish we could take back.
3. Borrowing – You accept someone else's offense:
 - a. You believe something about a person you don't know.
 - b. You believe a person you don't know talking about someone, even a minister you have known for years.
 - c. Their report is enticing to accept.
 - d. The most stupid sin is accepting someone's offense.
 - e. You can become angry at a person you may not know, then not get their side of the story.
 - f. You will look stupid if and when you learn the full story.

There Are Some Who Only Live To Talk About Others

"He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips." (Proverbs 20:19)

1. We all know someone who tells secrets about others.
2. He thinks he is important, popular by telling on others.
3. He will eventually lose his friends and reputation.

"Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;" (Psalm 15:1-3)

If You Believe An Angry Person, You Are Stupid

"Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul." (Proverbs 22:24-25)

“He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears.” (Proverbs 26:17)

1. This is taking someone else’s offense then making it yours.
2. You believe a friend or stranger because of a story they shared about someone.

“Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame?” (Proverbs 25:8)

1. You may think you can help and are soon drawn into a conversation.
2. Separate your emotions so you will not develop a root of bitterness.
3. Keep quiet and tell no one else. Don’t perpetuate strife.
4. Or, if you are truly concerned, talk to the other person. Don’t tell me not to talk to someone you have an offense with. If you don’t tell them, I will tell them to talk with you.

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)