

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry
Episode # 87, "Aunt Bee's Medicine Man"

Introduction:

Aunt Bee is troubled that a friend has just died. She is feeling vulnerable (and afraid) because of her age. A traveling salesman (Colonel Harvey) comes to town selling an elixir that will “cure all that ails ya.” She purchases two bottles, as do many of the town’s people, only to find she’s been swindled. Andy and Barney see through Colonel Harvey’s scheme and catch him, thus preventing further humiliation of the town’s people.

Lesson Points:

Fear (1 Timothy 2:7)

Being fearful may be a lack of trust in God or a lack of understanding of God’s plan
Being fearful tempts us do irrational and unusual things.

Wisdom (Proverbs 4:1-27)

Wisdom protects us from being deceived.
Wisdom gives us the ability to discern the enemy’s tricks.
Wisdom insulates us from foolishness.

Discernment (1 John 4:1)

Christians have a responsibility to discover truth and to be people of truth. We are not supposed to believe everything someone says.

Disobeying God (Numbers 32:23)

We cannot get away with sin. God knows all we do and will disclose it in His timing.

Discussion:

Have you ever been afraid or troubled by something?

What extreme, drastic, or unusual measures did this fear tempt you to take?

Have you ever been tricked or fooled by someone?

How did you feel when you found out?

Have you ever met someone you thought was “a bit shady” or deceptive but other people thought they were honest?

How did you act around that person?
What did you say to the others?

Can you think of someone who was caught in a sin that they thought was hidden from everyone?

(New International Version 1984 (NIV1984))

1 Timothy 2:7

⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

Proverbs 4:1-27

(see page two for complete text)

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⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.

⁶ Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

⁷ Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.

Though it cost all you have,^[a] get understanding.

⁸ Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.

⁹ She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.”

¹⁰ Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many.

¹¹ I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.

¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.

¹³ Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

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1 John 4:1

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Numbers 32:23

²³ “But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.

Proverbs 4:1-27

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Proverbs 4

Wisdom Is Supreme

- ¹ Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding.
- ² I give you sound learning,
so do not forsake my teaching.
- ³ When I was a boy in my father's house,
still tender, and an only child of my mother,
⁴ he taught me and said,
"Lay hold of my words with all your heart;
keep my commands and you will live.
- ⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding;
do not forget my words or swerve from
them.
- ⁶ Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect
you;
love her, and she will watch over you.
- ⁷ Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.
Though it cost all you have,^[a] get
understanding.
- ⁸ Esteem her, and she will exalt you;
embrace her, and she will honor you.
- ⁹ She will set a garland of grace on your head
and present you with a crown of splendor."
- ¹⁰ Listen, my son, accept what I say,
and the years of your life will be many.
- ¹¹ I guide you in the way of wisdom
and lead you along straight paths.
- ¹² When you walk, your steps will not be
hampered;
when you run, you will not stumble.
- ¹³ Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;
guard it well, for it is your life.

- ¹⁴ Do not set foot on the path of the wicked
or walk in the way of evil men.
- ¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it;
turn from it and go on your way.
- ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep till they do evil;
they are robbed of slumber till they make
someone fall.
- ¹⁷ They eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸ The path of the righteous is like the first
gleam of dawn,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.
- ¹⁹ But the way of the wicked is like deep dark-
ness;
they do not know what makes them
stumble.
- ²⁰ My son, pay attention to what I say;
listen closely to my words.
- ²¹ Do not let them out of your sight,
keep them within your heart;
- ²² for they are life to those who find them
and health to a man's whole body.
- ²³ Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.
- ²⁴ Put away perversity from your mouth;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.
- ²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead,
fix your gaze directly before you.
- ²⁶ Make level^[b] paths for your feet
and take only ways that are firm.
- ²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil.

Footnotes:

- a. [Proverbs 4:7](#) Or *Whatever else you get*
- b. [Proverbs 4:26](#) Or *Consider the*