

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry **Episode # 90, “Barney’s First Car”**

Introduction: Barney decides to make a big purchase – his first car! A sweet, older lady from Mt. Pilot brings in her deceased husband’s vehicle to meet with Barney’s approval. It seems like a great deal to him, but Andy suggests he think about it some more or at least have Wally look at it first. Barney simply can’t wait and closes the deal. You guessed it! The car turns out to be a lemon, and Mrs. Lesch proves she isn’t much better.

Lesson Points:

Deceptive People . . . – Ecclesiastes 9:17

Are Accomplished Predators – 1 Peter 5:8

Take Advantage of our Weaknesses – Proverbs 1:10

Tell Us What We Want to Hear – Job 34:3

Trick Us With Clever Schemes – Proverbs 19:20

Deceived People . . . – Proverbs 2:9-15

Rationalize Their Decisions – Proverbs 4:1-27

Refuse Advice – Proverbs 12:15

Refuse to See the Truth – Proverbs 23:23

Refuse to Take Responsibility for Their Actions – Galatians 6:7

Really CAN Become Prudent – Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 22:1-5

Prudent People . . . – Proverbs 1:1-7

Take Precautions – Proverbs 27:12

Think Ahead – Proverbs 14:8

Ignore Insults – Proverbs 12:16

Handle Correction Well – Proverbs 15:5

Don’t Believe Everything They Hear – Proverbs 14:15

Don’t Say Everything They Know – Proverbs 12:23

LEARN From “Wise Men” - Proverbs 18:15

LEAN on God – Proverbs 3:5-6, 2 Timothy 2:15

Discussion:

- 1) Barney was very enthusiastic about buying his first car, AND he had \$300 burning a hole in his pocket! But what did he lack? Why did he refuse Andy’s advice?
- 2) Was Barney’s “handwritin’ on the wall” what was actually best for him, or what he wanted to believe? What did Andy suggest Barney do? What else could Barney have done? What is the problem with always going with your first instincts?
- 3) Mrs. Lesch saw Barney as an easy mark. How do deceivers know what to say and do with us? What about us tips them off? How can we guard against those things?
- 4) How was Andy able to see the possible dangers of buying a car better than Barney? When they caught Mrs. Lesch red-handed, what was her reaction? What was Barney’s?
- 5) Did Barney learn from his mistake? Barney meets two “sweet, little old ladies” in this episode, but why does he treat them so differently? In the epilogue, he vows to be skeptical of everyone. Is this wise thinking? What would Andy advise us to do?

Final Thought:

Barney: Well, now I got my money back, I’m gonna be a little more careful. I’ve learned my lesson. Trust nobody...You can fool Barney Fife once, maybe – just once! But never again!

Ecclesiastes 9:17

17 The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded
than the shouts of a ruler of fools.

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Proverbs 1:10

10 My son, if sinners entice you,
do not give in to them.

Job 34:3

3 For the ear tests words
as the tongue tastes food.

Proverbs 19:20

20 Listen to advice and accept instruction,
and in the end you will be wise.

Proverbs 2:9-15

9 Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.

10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

11 Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.

12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,
from men whose words are perverse,

13 who leave the straight paths
to walk in dark ways,

14 who delight in doing wrong
and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,

15 whose paths are crooked
and who are devious in their ways.

Proverbs 4:1-27**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 darkness;
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.

Proverbs 12:15

15 The way of a fool seems right to him,
but a wise man listens to advice.

Proverbs 23:23

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it;
get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Galatians 6:7

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Proverbs 13:20

20 He who walks with the wise grows wise,
but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 22:1-5

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

2 Rich and poor have this in common:
The LORD is the Maker of them all.

3 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge,
but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

4 Humility and the fear of the LORD
bring wealth and honor and life.

5 In the paths of the wicked lie thorns and snares,
but he who guards his soul stays far from them.

Proverbs 1:1-7**Prologue: Purpose and Theme**

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

2 for attaining wisdom and discipline;
for understanding words of insight;

3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life,
doing what is right and just and fair;

4 for giving prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—

5 let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—

6 for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 27:12

12 The prudent see danger and take refuge,
but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Proverbs 14:8

8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways,
but the folly of fools is deception.

Proverbs 12:16

16 A fool shows his annoyance at once,
but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

Proverbs 15:5

5 A fool spurns his father's discipline,
but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

Proverbs 14:15

15 A simple man believes anything,
but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

Proverbs 12:23

23 A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself,
but the heart of fools blurts out folly.

Proverbs 18:15

15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge;
the ears of the wise seek it out.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.[a]

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

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