

WORDS

TEXT: (Proverbs 25:11-14, GW)

¹¹ [Like] golden apples in silver settings, [so] is a word spoken at the right time. ¹² [Like] a gold ring and a fine gold ornament, [so] is constructive criticism to the ear of one who listens. ¹³ Like the coolness of snow on a harvest day, [so] is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him: He refreshes his masters. ¹⁴ [Like] a dense fog or a dust storm, [so] is a person who brags about a gift that he does not give.

I. A WORD SPOKEN AT THE RIGHT TIME

1. "A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11, KJV).
2. "Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket" (Proverbs 25:11, NLT).
3. "Like apples of gold in settings of silver, so is a word skillfully spoken" (Proverbs 25:11, NET).

A. A Word Fitly Spoken

1. "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24, NIV).
2. "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:5-6, NIV).
3. "Walk in the wisdom of God as you live before the unbelievers, and make it your duty to make him known. Let every word you speak be drenched with grace and tempered with truth and clarity. For then you will be prepared to give a respectful answer to anyone who asks about your faith" (Colossians 4:5-6, TPT).

B. Artfully Spoken

1. "The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer" (Proverbs 15:28, ESV).
2. "The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking" (Proverbs 15:28, NLT).
3. "The heart of a righteous person carefully considers how to answer" (Proverbs 15:28, GW).

C. A Ruling Rightly Given

1. "Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a ruling rightly given" (Proverbs 25:11, NIV).

II. WORDS OF CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

1. "[Like] a gold ring and a fine gold ornament, [so] is constructive criticism to the ear of one who listens" (Proverbs 25:12, GW).

A. When Offended

1. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4, NIV).
2. "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not

seen” (I John 4:20, NIV).

B. When Your Friend Sins

1. "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector" (Matthew 18:15-17, NIV).
2. "Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct *or* sin of any sort, you who are spiritual [who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit] should set him right *and* restore *and* reinstate him, without any sense of superiority *and* with all gentleness, keeping an attentive eye on yourself, lest you should be tempted also. Bear (endure, carry) one another's burdens *and* troublesome moral faults, and in this way fulfill *and* observe perfectly the law of Christ (the Messiah) *and* complete what is lacking [in your obedience to it]" (Galatians 6:1-2, AMPC).
3. "Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. *You* might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived" (Galatians 6:1-3, MSG).

C. Developing the Art of Constructive Criticism

1. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17, NIV).
2. "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24, NLT).
3. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24, NIV).

III. Refreshing Words

1. 'Like the coolness of snow on a harvest day, [so] is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him: He refreshes his masters" (Proverbs 25:13, GW).

A. Trusted Words

1. "A reliable messenger brings healing" (Proverbs 13:17, NLT).

B. Comforting Words

1. "And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God" (I Samuel 30:6, KJV).
2. "The men of Israel encouraged one another and again took up their positions where they had stationed themselves the first day" (Judges 20:22, NIV).
3. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10, NIV).
 - b. The Word of God is a powerful source of consolation and encouragement.
4. "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13, NIV).

C. Being An Encourager

1. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36, NIV).
2. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing" (Matthew 23:37).
3. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "[Like] a dense fog or a dust storm, [so] is a person who brags about a gift that he does not give" (Proverbs 25:14, GW).
2. "Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone" (Colossians 4:6, NLT).