

February 24, 2024

HOW GOOD IS A TIMELY WORD

A person finds joy in giving an apt reply-and how good is a timely word. Proverbs 15:23 (NIV)

In this proverb, Solomon is encouraging us to give a timely, apt reply. Elsewhere in this chapter, an apt reply is emphasized: vs.1 **a gentle answer turns away wrath**, vs.4 **the soothing tongue is a tree of life**, vs.7 **the lips of the wise spread knowledge**, vs.28 **the heart of the righteous weighs its answers**.

Verse 23 is the only one in this section that emphasizes timing. The theme of our Lenten Devotional is “All in His Time”. This verse reminds us to think of our timing. Maybe we have thought of the best response to say, but the timing is wrong so our reply may not be as beneficial as we hope.

So, as we think about timing, we could listen to our child, spouse, friend, or co-worker’s whole story before we reply, so they know they have been heard. Before we respond on social media or after a disagreement, we could wait so that after reflection and time our response is appropriate. When a child, teen or student is struggling with a new skill, we could give them time to figure it out before we advise them. As God’s timing is perfect, maybe we should consider our timing when speaking to others as well.

Prayer: *Lord, help us as we interact with people to regulate our words and the timing of them to be a better reflection of You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

Cheryl Haugen