

25-0810p - Detailed Summary

25-0810p - *Fatherly Instructions, Part 4, Jim Lokenbauer*

Bible Reader: Mike Mathis

This detailed summary by Grok, xAI, (Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

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Fatherly Instructions, Part 4

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 32:20)

Scripture Reading

Bible Reader (0:04 - 0:38): Mike Mathis

1 John 4:18

The sermon begins with Mike reading from 1 John 4:18, which states, *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."* This verse sets the thematic foundation for the sermon, emphasizing the relationship between love, fear, and spiritual maturity.

Summary

Preacher: Jim Lokenbauer

(0:43 - 4:33) Introduction and Recap of Morning Sermon

Preacher Jim opens the evening sermon, which is the fourth and final part of a series titled "Fatherly Instructions." He recaps the morning's lesson, which focused on the fear of God as the foundation for learning and knowledge, drawing from Proverbs 1:7, which states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." Jim explains that fear of God, particularly the fear of divine correction or punishment, is essential for believers, especially in the early stages of faith. As one matures in faith, this fear evolves into a love-driven obedience, where actions are motivated by love for God rather than fear of punishment. This mature faith is characterized by agape love. Jim references the morning's discussion of Proverbs 1:1-6, where Solomon outlines 13 purposes of Proverbs, such as attaining wisdom and discipline. He also cites Exodus 20:20, where God uses fear-inducing displays (thunder, lightning, and His booming voice) to teach the Israelites to fear Him and avoid sin, reinforcing the idea that fear is a motivational tool for obedience.

(4:34 - 5:04) Fear as a Teaching Tool

Jim reiterates that God employs fear as a foundational mechanism to teach His people, enabling them to build knowledge applicable to all areas of life. He emphasizes that Proverbs 1:1-6 will be

revisited to explore the benefits Solomon lists, which guide believers toward wisdom and virtuous living.

(5:08 - 7:10) Purposes of Proverbs

Jim delves into the purposes of Proverbs as outlined by Solomon in Proverbs 1:1-6, which include attaining wisdom, discipline, and understanding, as well as fostering a prudent and righteous life. Wisdom is defined as the proper use of knowledge, experience, and discernment to perform good works as intended by God. Jim stresses that God desires His people to be wise, knowledgeable, and capable of making decisions that glorify Him. Obedience to God's commands is presented as an expression of love for Him. The sermon highlights Solomon's list of benefits, such as acquiring prudence for the simple, knowledge and discretion for the young, and guidance for the discerning, emphasizing that Proverbs serve as a practical guide for virtuous living.

(7:11 - 14:44) Detailed Exploration of Proverbs' Benefits

Jim elaborates on the specific benefits of Proverbs. He begins with attaining wisdom, noting that as God's children, believers are called to emulate God's wisdom. He references James 1:5-8, which encourages believers to ask God for wisdom with unwavering faith, assuring that God gives generously without finding fault. Discipline, another benefit, is described as instruction, correction, and self-control, aligning with the fruits of the Spirit. Proverbs also help believers understand words of insight by adopting the wisdom of others, enabling discernment. Jim emphasizes the importance of a disciplined life, guided by God's commands, as illustrated in Jeremiah 6:16, which urges believers to seek and walk in God's ancient paths for rest and fulfillment. Discipline involves restraining one's emotions and actions, as exemplified by Paul's self-discipline in 1 Corinthians 9:27. Prudence, defined as cautious and practical wisdom, is highlighted as a lifelong pursuit, ensuring careful decision-making. Finally, Jim discusses righteousness, drawing on Noah Webster's definition of it as purity of heart and conformity to divine law, akin to holiness. He cites 1 John 3:7 to affirm that righteousness involves conscious moral choices enabled by Christ's righteousness.

(14:46 - 15:47) Doing What is Just and the Value of Proverbs

Jim continues with the benefit of doing what is just, again referencing Noah Webster's definition of justice as moral uprightness and adherence to God's laws. He underscores the unique Christian perspective in Webster's definitions, contrasting them with secular sources like the Cambridge Bible. The sermon emphasizes that studying Proverbs equips believers to live justly, aligning their actions with God's will and fostering equitable conduct.

(15:47 - 16:33) Fairness and Prudence for the Simple

The discussion moves to fairness, described as honesty and honor in dealings with others, avoiding underhanded practices. Proverbs also provide prudence to the simple, meaning those who are gullible or lack discernment. Jim explains that Proverbs help the simple-minded develop caution and critical thinking, protecting them from being easily swayed.

(16:34 - 18:38) Knowledge and Discretion for the Young

Jim highlights that Proverbs impart knowledge and discretion to the young, who lack life

experience and need guidance. He shares a personal anecdote about a childhood friend whose mother taught him Proverbs, planting a seed of spiritual curiosity. This underscores the importance of teaching children God's Word, particularly Proverbs, to instill practical knowledge for life. Jim praises a congregant, Steve, for his practice of daily Proverbs reading, reinforcing the value of consistent engagement with Scripture.

(18:40 - 21:00) Instilling God's Word in Children and Ongoing Learning

Jim emphasizes the parental responsibility to teach children God's Word, citing Deuteronomy 6:7-9, which instructs Israelites to immerse their children in God's law at all times. He references Proverbs 22:6, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it," to highlight the lasting impact of early instruction. Discretion, described as discernment and critical judgment, is another benefit of Proverbs, helping the young evaluate situations wisely. Jim notes that even wise individuals, like Steve at 84, continue to learn from Proverbs, demonstrating humility and the ongoing need for God's wisdom.

(21:01 - 22:51) Ongoing Learning and Proverbs for All Ages

Jim continues emphasizing the lifelong value of studying Proverbs, noting that even seasoned believers like Steve, at 84, continue to benefit from them. He shares a personal anecdote about challenging a friend, Joe, to memorize Proverbs 25 years ago, which fostered joy and spiritual growth. Jim likens the brain to a muscle that needs exercise, suggesting that pondering Proverbs is more beneficial than secular activities like solving crossword puzzles. He underscores that Proverbs keep the mind sharp, particularly in one's senior years, as God designed them to support continuous learning. Solomon's purpose for Proverbs, as stated in Proverbs 1:1-6, is reiterated, highlighting their role in providing guidance for understanding God's teachings, including parables and the sayings of the wise, which aligns with how Jesus taught.

(22:52 - 26:07) Parables, Obedience, and Spiritual Growth

Jim connects the Proverbs' purpose to Jesus' use of parables, noting that Jesus explained parables were meant to reveal God's truths to those eager to learn while confounding the self-important who lack the Holy Spirit. Obedience to God's word, facilitated by the Holy Spirit, is crucial for spiritual growth, with Proverbs 1:7 reinforcing that the fear of God is the starting point for knowledge. Jim revisits Exodus 20:20, where Moses instructs the Israelites not to fear God's display but to fear Him to avoid sin, clarifying that this fear evolves into love-driven obedience. He stresses that believers will face judgment, citing John 12:48, where Jesus warns that rejecting His words leads to condemnation. Obedience, rooted in love, is emphasized through John 14:21, 23-24, which states that those who obey Jesus' commands demonstrate love for Him and receive love from both Jesus and the Father, fostering a deep spiritual connection.

(26:08 - 27:47) Obedience as an Expression of Love

Jim elaborates that obedience is the primary way believers express love and gratitude to God for His immense love for humanity. As believers grow in faith, they recognize the depth of God's love, which motivates reciprocal love. He references 1 John 1:7-9, explaining that God's grace, through Jesus' blood, purifies believers from sin when they walk in His light and confess their sins. This grace is evidence of God's boundless love, encouraging believers to live in fellowship with one

another and remain purified through confession, reinforcing the transformative power of God's love in their lives.

(27:48 - 29:51) Grace, Perseverance, and Transformation

Jim acknowledges that believers, while practicing their faith, will occasionally sin, but God's grace through Jesus' sacrifice covers these shortcomings, as stated in 1 John 2:1-5. He emphasizes that Jesus serves as an advocate and atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world, and true knowledge of God is demonstrated through obedience to His commands. Disobedience reveals a lack of truth, while obedience completes God's love in the believer. Jim describes spiritual growth as a process of trial and error, requiring persistence and perseverance. He encourages believers to keep striving despite failures, assuring them that God supports their efforts to align with His will.

(29:52 - 32:05) From Fear to Love and Heavenly Focus

Jim returns to 1 John 4:18, the sermon's opening verse, to explain that as believers grow in love and trust for God, fear of punishment is replaced by love, reflecting God's image and spreading agape love to others. This transformation aligns with the goal of becoming like Christ, allowing God's light to shine through believers. He cites 1 John 2:28, urging believers to live confidently in Christ to avoid shame at His return. Jim challenges the congregation to examine their lives, asking whether they will face Jesus with confidence or fear due to unconfessed sin, emphasizing the importance of a heaven-focused life rooted in trust in God's grace.

(32:06 - 32:20) Invitation to Prayer and Restoration

Jim concludes with an invitation for those struggling with sin to seek prayer and restoration, assuring them that God will forgive and restore them. This call to action reinforces the sermon's message of God's grace and the opportunity for believers to realign with His will through confession and communal support.