

Scripture: Proverbs 13

Singing: 397:1, 2 7, 8 – 83:1-2 – 100:1-4 – 383:1-3 – 329:1-4

Intro: Make Solomon's counsel in Proverbs your daily companion!

A. Proverbs 13:12 deals with a common truth we face: *disappointments*

1. Disappointments touch everyone in our world
2. Disappointments make 'the heart sick' (Ps. 142; Job 7:11; Jer. 18:19-20)
3. God's overruling or provision is 'tree of life'

The Mystery of Disappointments

I. God will not always fulfill all your hopes or bless your plans

A. God expects you to make plans and allows you to have hopes

1. Prov. 3:5-7 & James 4:14-15
 - a. When you write your plan, use a pencil (1 Cor. 4:19; 1 Cor. 16:7)

B. Yet God maintains the 'right' to change or over-ride your plans (Rom. 1:10; Dan. 4:35; Ps. 115:3)

C. God wants us to remember: *I am the Almighty Sovereign God!*

1. He not only knows your life details, but He also directs them (Ps. 139; 92:5)

II. God's plans or designs always are better than yours

A. Nobody agrees with or sees this truth until 'after the fact'

B. God may show in this life why His plan was better than yours (Gen 45:5-8; 50:20; Ps. 18:30' Phil. 4:10-12)

1. Yet often we may need to die in faith (John 13:7)
2. Yet while God's providence remains a mystery, it is not chaos nor chance

C. Why are God's plans always better than yours?

1. God often wraps His gifts without *bright paper and pretty bows*

D. How can a hope delayed be good or even better ...?

1. ... *when I have prayed much and I received no answer?*

2. ... *when He has crossed or crushed my 'dream'?*

3. ... *when I wrestle, wait, knock, seek, and plan in dependence upon Him?*

Reflect & Act

A. Be still and know that God is God! (Ps. 46:10)

B. Wait on the LORD for He will never put your to shame! (Is. 40:31)

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint..

Dear children. The little boy does not look happy. He was looking forward to his ice cream. He is very disappointed and sad because all his money is spent



1. Write about a time you were disappointed.

2. What comfort would you give to the boy?

3. Sometimes God let bad things happen. For example, in Joseph's life when he was sold. But God makes good come out of bad. Can you think of one example (not Joseph!)?

4. Sometimes God will not right away answer your prayer even though He hears it. What might God be teaching you when He does not answer our prayers the way we like it?

5. Let's say you want to become a doctor when you become an adult. How will you know if that is good thing? Write down your thoughts and talk them over with your parents.

6. This question I was thinking about myself when I prepared the sermon. Maybe you have a good answer. Was Jesus ever disappointed while He lived on earth?