

DISCREET, DISCREETLY, DISCRETION

Note: “discreet” is another word for “prudent”. It’s the ability to respect someone’s privacy, or be silent about matters that are delicate. People who are discreet know when to *not* say something. (They also know the difference between good and evil.)

When Joseph as young, he lacked **discretion**. (He kept telling his dreams to his brothers, even when it became clear that doing so just made them hate him even more than they already did.)

- **Genesis 37:9:** "And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me."

Joseph wore his coat of many colors when he went to check on his brothers, even though they hated both him and his coat, and even though seeing him wearing that coat would have filled them with rage. (It seems Joseph lacked **discretion** when he was young.)

- **Genesis 37:23:** "And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;"

Joseph told Pharaoh to set someone over Egypt, during the coming years of plenty and famine, who was both **discreet** and wise.

- **Genesis 41:33:** "Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a

man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt."

Pharaoh told Joseph no one was as **discreet** and wise as him.

- **Genesis 41:39:** "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:"

Under the Mosaic Law, God decided who would receive the inheritance. It wasn't left up to the **discretion** of the person who died, and it couldn't be given to anyone.

- **Numbers 27:8:** "And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter."

Those who are good guide their affairs with **discretion**.

- **Psalms 112:5:** "A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion."

It's good to live with **discretion**.

- **Psalms 112:5:** "A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion."

It's possible to teach people to have **discretion**. (The proverbs that are found in the Bible can be used for that purpose.)

- **Proverbs 1:1, 4:** "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; ... To give subtilty to the simple, to

the young man knowledge and discretion."

Discretion can preserve and protect us.

- **Proverbs 2:11:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:"

Discretion can save us from those who speak evil things.

- **Proverbs 2:11-12:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;"

We need to exercise **discretion** so we can be delivered from those who walk in darkness.

- **Proverbs 2:11-13:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;"

We need to exercise **discretion** so we can be delivered from those who rejoice in doing evil.

- **Proverbs 2:11-12, 14:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ... Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;"

We need to exercise **discretion** so we can be delivered from those who are stubborn, rebellious, and difficult to deal with.

- **Proverbs 2:11-12, 15:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ... Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:"

Discretion can deliver us from dangerous strangers (who use flattering words to deceive people).

- **Proverbs 2:11-12, 16:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ... To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;"

We need to exercise **discretion** so we can be delivered from immoral women.

- **Proverbs 2:11-12, 16-17:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ... To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God."

We need to exercise **discretion** so we can avoid getting ensnared in a lifestyle that leads to death.

- **Proverbs 2:11-12, 18:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the

way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ... For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead."

We need to exercise **discretion** so we can stay on the paths of life.

- **Proverbs 2:11-12, 19:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ... None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life."

It's possible to lose **discretion**. (We need to be careful to not let it depart from us.)

- **Proverbs 3:21:** "My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:"

Discretion brings life to the soul.

- **Proverbs 3:21-22:** "My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck."

Those who lack **discretion** are in danger. They may stumble in ways that could have been avoided.

- **Proverbs 3:21, 23:** "My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: ... Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble."

We need to exercise **discretion**.

- **Proverbs 5:2:** "That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge."

Discretion warns us against sexual immorality, and tell us about the enormous dangers that it poses to our life.

- **Proverbs 5:2-5:** "That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell."

A woman's beauty is marred if she lacks **discretion**. (Discretion is very important.)

- **Proverbs 11:22:** "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion."

Those who are **discreet** choose not to be angry.

- **Proverbs 19:11:** "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression."

God stretched out the heavens by His **discretion**.

- **Jeremiah 10:12:** "He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."

Jesus saw that the scribe had answered Him with **discretion**.

- **Mark 12:32-34:** "And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question."

Paul commanded older women to teach young women to be **discreet**.

- **Titus 2:3-5:** "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."