

# An Old Farmer's Advice & King Solomon's Wisdom

**1. Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight, and bull-strong.**

*Like a city whose walls are broken down is a person who lacks self-control - 25:28*

**2. Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.**

*A person's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense - 19:11*

**3. A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.**

*A prudent person sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it - 22:3*

**4. Words that soak into your ears are whispered not yelled.**

*A gentle answer turns away wrath...Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones - 15:1, 16:24*

**5. Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.**

*Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble - 28:14*

**6. Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.**

*When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, even his enemies live at peace with him - 16:7*

**7. Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.**

*If a wise person goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace - 29:9*

**8. It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.**

*A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense - 19:11*

**9. You cannot unsay a cruel word.**

*He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin - 13:3 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing - 12:18 Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him - 29:20*

**10. Every path has a few puddles.**

*The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down - 14:1*

**11. When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.**

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm - 13:20 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared - 22:24,25*

**12. Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen, anyway.**

*"I tell you, do not worry about your life..." Jesus' wisdom in The Sermon on the Mount - Matt 6:25 - 33*

**13. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.**

*A person of knowledge uses words with restraint...Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent - 17:27,28*

**14. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.**

*A faithful person will be richly blessed - 28:20*

**15. Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.**

*Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own - 26:17*

**16. Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.**

*The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord - 21:31*

**17. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin.'**

*If a man digs a pit, he will fall into it; if he rolls a stone, it will roll back on him - 26:27*

**18. The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror every morning'.**

*As water reflects a face, so a person's heart reflects the person - 27:19*

**19. Always drink upstream from the herd.**

*Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous person who gives way to the wicked - 25:26*

**20. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.**

*He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers - 19:8*

**21. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.**

*A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a person who talks too much - 20:19*

**22. If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.**

*A person's pride brings him low, but a person of humility gains honor - 29:23*

**23. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.**

## What you and I can do to live out Luke 15

1. Recognize that lost people really do matter to God and therefore matter to us.
2. Invite, Invite, Invite: you invite them to church and I'll invite them to Christ.
3. Pray, Pray, Pray - for people, that God's love and presence will break in upon them, and they will see.
4. Be as passionate about reaching others as Joakim Noah is about rebounds, baskets and blocked shots.
5. Participate in at least one outreach ministry of Trinity: Alpha, Trinity Ambassadors, Visitation, etc.
6. Go out of your way to welcome first time visitors, and encourage long time members.
7. Do your part in making the Body of Christ at Trinity a warm, inviting, caring, loving place where people feel the presence of God.
8. Celebrate! Be a celebrative, positive, enthusiastic, delighted person in Christ; your enthusiasm will be contagious.
9. Be a growing Christian; your vital life in Jesus is what will attract others to life in Jesus.
10. Look for ways to witness; to share your love and enthusiasm for your church and for your Lord.

1. Notice the connection between the end of Luke 14 and the beginning of Luke 15:

Luke 14 ends with Jesus saying, "He who has ears to **hear**, let him **hear**."

Luke 15 begins: Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathered around to **hear** him. But the Pharisees and teachers of the law muttered...(didn't **hear**)

Those who are aware of their need are the ones who are willing and eager to hear Jesus.

2. The early church leaders and interpreters insisted that Luke 15 is not three parables but one parable in three movements - an important and seldom mentioned point. Today, I'm suggesting we see four movements in the one parable - hence, The Final Four (I know, that is a bit of a stretch!)

The lost sheep - and the searching Shepherd

The lost coin - and the seeking Woman

The lost son - and the welcoming Father

The faithful son - and the gracious Father

3. The ancient church leaders saw in the movements the Trinity: the Son in the first (A - Shepherd), the Spirit in the second (B - the Woman) and the Father (C,D - the Father) in the third and fourth (G. Campbell Morgan, The Gospel of Luke).

What Jesus is saying about God is radically new. Most ancient views were that the gods were capricious, aloof, distant, manipulative, unfeeling, uncaring - that humans were here to serve them. So, when Jesus comes along and tells of a God who loves us so much He seeks after us like a Shepherd does a lost sheep, like a Woman who turns her house upside down looking for a small coin, like a Father who welcomes home a son who has defamed him and consoles a son who feels betrayed, he is describing a God that is heretofore unimaginable!

And, the refrain in each story is what? Overwhelming joy and celebration and excitement!

Now, hear this: if all of us Gator fans can get as excited about the Final Four as we are, then, for God's sake we ought to be twice as excited and intentional and passionate about seeking the lost children of God and seeing them come Home to Him! What, in God's name, are you doing for the lost sheep, the beloved coin, the wayward son?