

Proverbs 15:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

Analysis

Apt answers bring joy to the speaker and hearer. Words fitly spoken meet needs with timely truth and grace. This requires wisdom to discern what, when, and how to speak for maximum benefit. Gospel ministry involves such fitting application of eternal truth to particular circumstances.

Historical Context

Wisdom teachers were valued for ability to speak appropriately to diverse situations. Daniel, Joseph, and others demonstrated this skill in pagan courts, bringing glory to God through wise speech.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you cultivate sensitivity to speak the right word at the right time?
2. When has someone's apt word brought you joy through its perfect timeliness?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵת יָדְבָּר שָׁמֶךָ הַיְלָדָן בְּמִשְׁנָה לְאִישׁ שָׁמֶךָ הַיְלָדָן
hath joy A man by the answer of his mouth and a word spoken in due season
H8057 H376 H4617 H6310 H1697 H6256

טֹובָה מָה
H4100 how good
H2896

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 50:4 (Word): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Ephesians 4:29 (Good): Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Proverbs 12:14 (Good): A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

Proverbs 16:13 (Parallel theme): Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

Proverbs 24:26 (Parallel theme): Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (Parallel theme): To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: