

Proverbs 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

Analysis

Many will entreat the favor of the prince, and every man is a friend to him that gives gifts. Powerful persons attract supplicants; generous persons attract 'friends.' This verse observes how humans pursue relationships with those who can benefit them. The observation is both descriptive (this is how people behave) and prescriptive (recognize this dynamic). Those with power or resources should recognize that flattery may be mercenary; those without should examine their motives in relationships.

Historical Context

Reflects patronage culture where princes and wealthy benefactors were courted by those seeking favor. Gift-giving created reciprocal obligations binding patrons and clients.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How much of your social effort focuses on cultivating relationships with those who can benefit you?
2. How do you distinguish genuine friendship from mercenary relationships in your life?

Interlinear Text

רַב־בָּיִם	וְיִחַלּוּ	פָּנָיו	בְּדַבַּר	וְכָל־	וְהָרֵעַ
Many	will intreat	the favour	of the prince	H3605	and every man is a friend
H7227	H2470	H6440	H5081		H7453
לְאִישׁ	מִתְּנָן:				
to him	that giveth gifts				
H376	H4976				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:26 (Parallel theme): Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.

Proverbs 18:16 (Parallel theme): A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

Proverbs 17:8 (Parallel theme): A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

Proverbs 21:14 (Parallel theme): A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

Proverbs 19:12 (Parallel theme): The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.

Genesis 42:6 (Parallel theme): And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.

Romans 6:23 (Parallel theme): For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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