

Wisdom From Uninspired Men

Introduction. By experience and common sense, uninspired men have expressed some great words of wisdom in the past. Geoffrey Chaucer said, “Nothing ventured, nothing gained.” Oscar Wilde said, “Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes.” Thomas Edison said, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”

Even though all scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17), not every word recorded in the scriptures comes from inspired men. Since all scripture is given by inspiration of God, we can be confident that whatever was stated by uninspired men is correctly recorded. That being the case, there are three instances of uninspired, wise words that we will certainly benefit from in this lesson.

I. The Man Born Blind (John 9:28-33)

- A. Can there be any better sound reasoning than what was given by this man?
 - 1. The leaders called Jesus a sinner (John 9:24), yet Jesus was used of God to open the blind man’s eyes.
 - 2. The Lord’s miracles proved His origin and identity (Acts 2:22). The word was intended to produce faith (Romans 10:8, 17).
- B. This man expresses the deepest truth concerning acceptable prayer: it must be offered by those righteous before God (James 5:16-18; 1 Peter 3:12).
 - 1. Any sinner who will not hear the law of God, his prayer is an abomination (Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 28:9; Isaiah 1:15).
 - 2. To be righteous before God, one must submit to the “righteousness of God” offered in Christ (Romans 10:1-4).

II. Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:24-37)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar was a very proud and haughty king, but God humbled him. Though not an inspired man, he said some great words regarding pride and the necessity of humility (vv. 36-37).
- B. Pride raises you up more than you should be and puts you in opposition to God (Proverbs 8:13; 16:18; 18:11-12; James 4:13-17). Every once in a while, we need to hear what Jesus, James, and Peter taught about exalting ourselves (Luke 14:11; James 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:5-7). Nebuchadnezzar abased himself after he had this great verdict in his life; would it not be better to learn the wisdom of self-abasement and simply do it?

III. The Servants Of Naaman (2 Kings 5:11-14)

- A. The servants reasoned with Naaman, “Since you would have gladly done an extremely difficult task, why not do this easy one?”
- B. Naaman was extremely blessed to have caring servants with the power of logical persuasion.
 - 1. The Lord needs Christians who will use their talents to guide men and women to God (John 1:45-46; 4:39; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

2. Thoughtful words delivered in a reasoned, gentle way can go a long way in convincing people of their need to respond to truth (Ecclesiastes 9:17; Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15).
3. You could be the laborer sent into the harvest to inform people of Jesus (Matthew 9:37-38). Those who hear Him and do His commandments are like the wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25). That response of wisdom could be the result of your wise instruction.

Conclusion. The Bible is a wonderful book (Psalm 19:7), and we can learn even from various uninspired men whose great wisdom is recorded in it (Proverbs 4:5-7).

The inspired writers of the Bible direct us in how to rise above the destitution of sin. The inspired apostle John told us that eternal life is found in Jesus (1 John 5:11-13).