Proverbs 18:13 & 17

**13. One who gives an answer before he hears, It is foolishness and shame to him. 17. The first to plead his case seems right, Until another comes and examines him.**

Generally speaking, the first person to tell a story is the one we believe. It is a trick used by most media now to be the first to break the story and if the whole truth is not there, they will fill in the gaps with “fluff”. Most of the time, however, this ends up blowing back up in their face. The same for those of us who have heard one side of the story and ended up believing the wrong person. The old saying “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” seems prevalent in today’s society. It seems the louder and faster someone tells us something the more believable they are.

We are told here in Proverbs, and to back it up with other scripture we are to be slow to speak and quick to listen. We are to always get all the facts before even thinking about “taking” sides. Typically these situations are used to diminish someone and as Christians we are to be aware of people who try these tactics. This is not to say that sometimes the information is right but the key is to hear both sides. Eventually, as my mother would have said, it will all come out in the wash. The bible is clear that we are to watch what we say and do and to always get all the information before making a brash decision about anything.

Many of us, and I know I have, have fallen for these tactics before. I have taken them hook, line and sinker only to have to backtrack once all the information has come about. We, as Christians have to learn from our mistakes and make a note to not make them again. In this year of our Lord 2025 let us do a better job of bringing people together with our words and actions and squash rumors where they stand. Let us all this year grow even closer to the Lord as we know we are one year, one day, and one minute closer to His glorious return.

As always remember all of us here at New Life in your thoughts and prayers, and continue to study the Word of God as it is the Words of Life.

CMTTP