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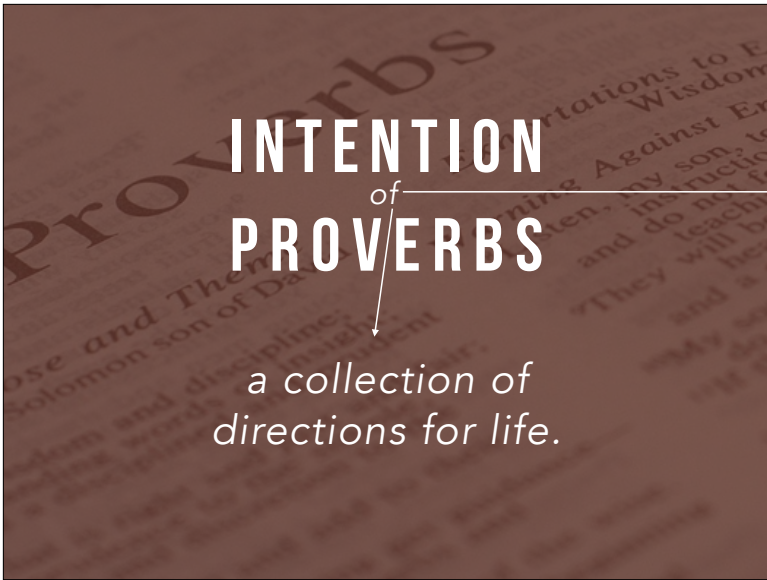
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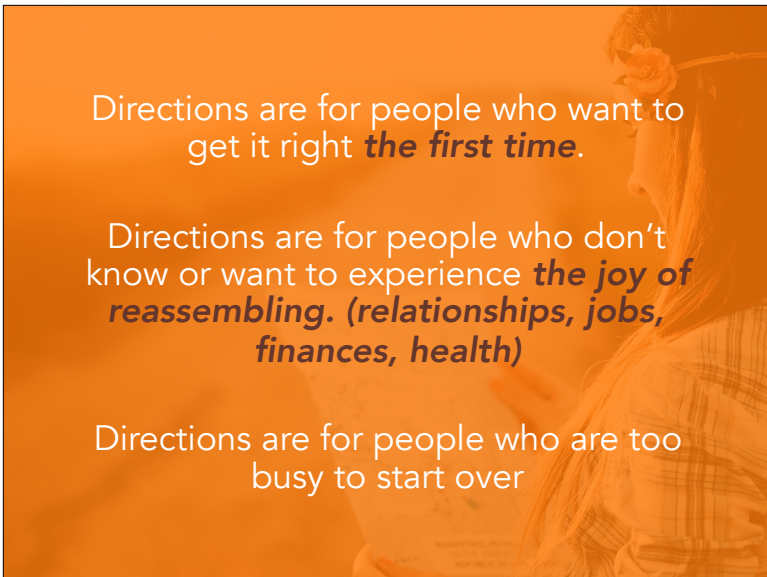
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TODAY'S QUESTION  
**“HOW TO HANDLE DIFFICULT PEOPLE”**

THE ANSWER IS VERY SIMPLE:

**YOU DON'T**

**“A MAN OF KNOWLEDGE USES WORDS WITH RESTRAINT, AND A MAN OF UNDERSTANDING IS EVEN-TEMPERED. EVEN A FOOL IS THOUGHT WISE IF HE KEEPS SILENT, AND DISCERNING IF HE HOLDS HIS TONGUE.”** PROVERBS 17:27-28

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LUKE 20:1-4, 7-8

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. <sup>2</sup> “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?” <sup>3</sup> He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: <sup>4</sup> John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?” ...

<sup>7</sup> So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”

<sup>8</sup> Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

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IT MAY BE  
POSSIBLE THAT,  
IN SOMEONE  
ELSE’S MIND,  
**YOU**  
ARE A DIFFICULT  
PERSON.



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# THE COMMON DENOMINATOR OF DIFFICULT PEOPLE

↓  
*People in emotional pain become  
self-absorbed.*

↓  
*Self-absorbed people make  
self-absorbed decisions.*

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## BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO HANDLE DIFFICULT PEOPLE, ASK YOURSELF

WHO HAS A HANDLE ON ME?"

"When you react, the event (or other person)  
controls you. When you respond, you're in control."

GEORGE J. THOMPSON, PH.D.

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## THE SIMPLE PERSON

"Do not be so open-  
minded that your  
brains fall out."

WALTER KOTSCHNIG

"Leave your simple  
ways and you will live;  
walk in the way of  
insight."

PROVERBS 9:6

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PROVERBS 7:21-23

<sup>21</sup> With persuasive words she led him astray;  
she seduced him with her smooth talk.

<sup>22</sup> All at once he followed her like an ox  
going to the slaughter,  
like a deer[a] stepping into a noose[b]

<sup>23</sup> till an arrow pierces his liver,  
like a bird darting into a snare,  
little knowing it will cost him his life.

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THE  
SIMPLE  
PERSON

*responds to wisdom with:*



*"Nothing is going to happen"*

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PROVERBS 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
pay attention to what I say.

<sup>25</sup> Do not let your heart turn to her ways or  
stray into her paths.

<sup>26</sup> Many are the victims she has brought down;  
her slain are a mighty throng.

<sup>27</sup> Her house is a highway to the grave,  
leading down to the chambers of death.

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WATCH OUT FOR  
THE EXPERIENCE MYTH:

“EXPERIENCE MAKES ME WISER”

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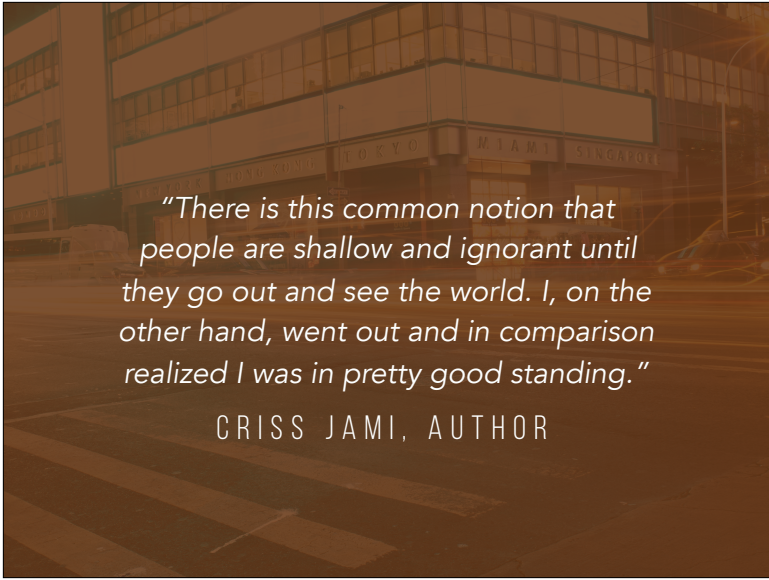
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*“There is this common notion that people are shallow and ignorant until they go out and see the world. I, on the other hand, went out and in comparison realized I was in pretty good standing.”*

CRISS JAMI, AUTHOR

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EXPERIENCE DOES NOT  
MAKE YOU WISER

EVALUATED  
EXPERIENCE  
MAKES YOU WISER.

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PLEASE DON'T TRADE WHAT YOU  
WANT MOST FOR WHAT YOU WANT IN  
THE MOMENT.

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MAIN POINT

“WHO HAS  
A HANDLE  
ON ME?”

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THE  
FOOL

“The way of fools  
seems right to them,  
but the wise listen to  
advice.”

PROVERBS 12:15

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“AS A DOG RETURNS TO ITS VOMIT, SO FOOLS REPEAT  
THEIR FOLLY” PROVERBS 26:11 (NIV)

“A FOOL FINDS PLEASURE IN WICKED SCHEMES, BUT A  
PERSON OF UNDERSTANDING DELIGHTS IN WISDOM.”  
PROVERBS 10:23

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WATCH OUT FOR  
THE KNOW BETTER MYTH:

“SINCE I KNOW BETTER, I’LL DO BETTER.”

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THE CURE FOR THE  
NAÏVE PERSON:

**TIME**

THE CURE FOR THE FOOL:

**TRAGEDY**

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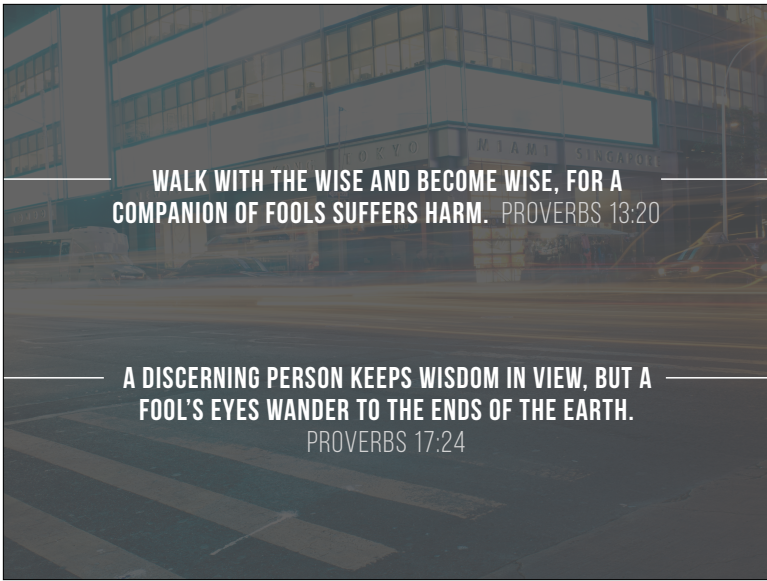
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**WALK WITH THE WISE AND BECOME WISE, FOR A  
COMPANION OF FOOLS SUFFERS HARM.** PROVERBS 13:20

**A DISCERNING PERSON KEEPS WISDOM IN VIEW, BUT A  
FOOL'S EYES WANDER TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.**  
PROVERBS 17:24

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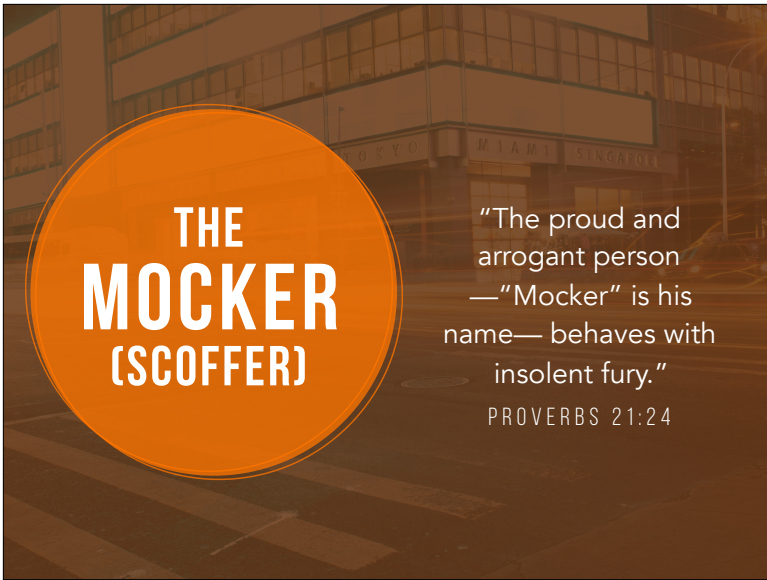
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**THE  
MOCKER  
(SCOFFER)**

“The proud and  
arrogant person  
—“Mocker” is his  
name— behaves with  
insolent fury.”  
PROVERBS 21:24

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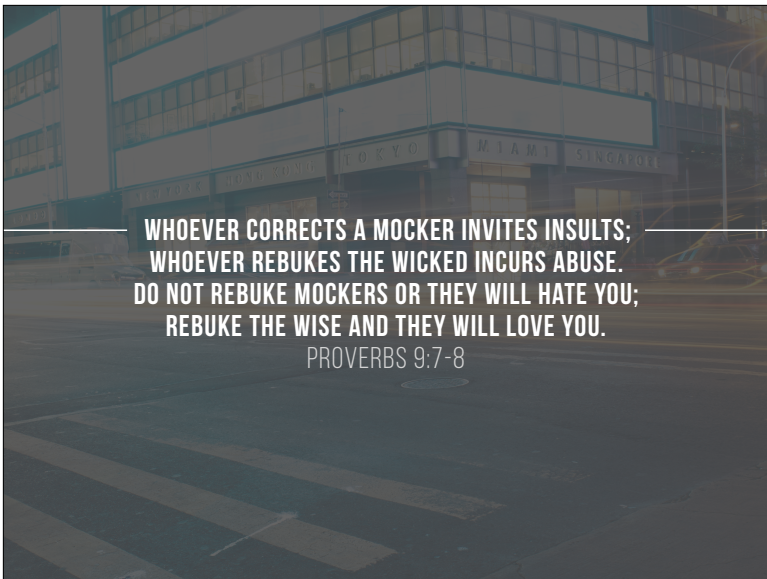
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**WHOEVER CORRECTS A MOCKER INVITES INSULTS;  
WHOEVER REBUKES THE WICKED INCURS ABUSE.  
DO NOT REBUKE MOCKERS OR THEY WILL HATE YOU;  
REBUKE THE WISE AND THEY WILL LOVE YOU.**  
PROVERBS 9:7-8

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**“DRIVE OUT THE MOCKER, AND OUT GOES STRIFE;  
QUARRELS AND INSULTS ARE ENDED.”**

PROVERBS 22:10

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## PROVERBS 1:20-33

<sup>20</sup> “Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square; <sup>21</sup> on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech:”

<sup>22</sup> “How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?”

<sup>23</sup> Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings.

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## PROVERBS 1:20-33

<sup>24</sup> “But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, <sup>25</sup> since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke,”

<sup>26</sup> “I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—

<sup>27</sup> when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

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# PROVERBS 1:20-33

<sup>28</sup> "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, <sup>29</sup> since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord.

<sup>30</sup> Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, <sup>31</sup> they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

<sup>32</sup> For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them;

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# PROVERBS 1:20-33

## THE GOOD NEWS!

↓  
<sup>33</sup> "but... whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

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### MAIN POINT

**BEFORE YOU TRY TO "HANDLE" SOMEONE ELSE, ASK YOURSELF "WHO HAS A HANDLE ON ME?"**

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**“A LIFE TRANSFORMED  
IS EVIDENCE OF A  
POWER THAT CANNOT  
BE EXPLAINED AWAY.”**

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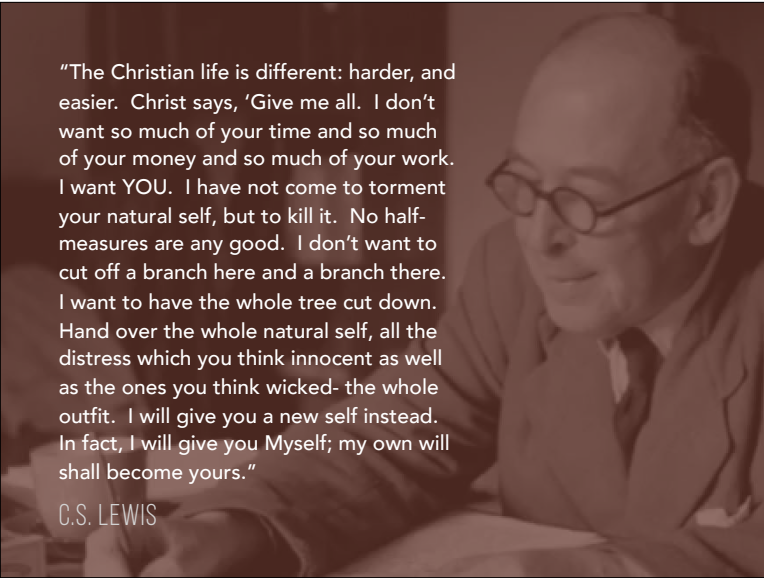
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“The Christian life is different: harder, and easier. Christ says, ‘Give me all. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work. I want YOU. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don’t want to cut off a branch here and a branch there. I want to have the whole tree cut down. Hand over the whole natural self, all the distress which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked- the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself; my own will shall become yours.”

C.S. LEWIS



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MAKING LIFE  
**WORK**  
REAL SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

**PART 7: HOW TO HANDLE DIFFICULT PEOPLE**

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