

June 9 Answers

- 1) The wise sayings and proverbs of Solomon. Many proverbs challenge us to think about what we **say** to others. For example, “When words are **many**, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent” (Prov 10:19). This teaches us that words are like **sheep**: the more there are, the more likely it is that some will go astray. If we’re wise, we will learn to hold our tongues. Holding our tongues means self-**restraint**. It means less talking and more **listening**. It means thinking before we speak and not **blurting** out the first thing that pops into our head. It means resisting the urge to always have the best story or the best joke. It means considering others as more important than ourselves (cf. Phil 2:3). If we bridle our tongues, our words can be like “choice **silver**” (Prov 10:20). They can bring wisdom, encouragement and hope. Truly, “the lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse” (Prov 10:32).