As Christians, we are of course supposed to be considerate—not eating all the sweets, not overstaying our welcome, being generally polite and so forth. But there’s more to consideration than you might suppose! “Considerate” comes from the Latin “*consideratus*,” meaning “to look at closely, observe.” “Considerate” was defined in the 1580s as "deliberate, prudent, given to consideration." The more familiar meaning, "not unfeeling or rigorous, showing concern for the circumstances or feelings of others" is from about 1700. Both meanings apply here! We are to be both wise (as in not trusting the unfaithful man,) and gentle (as in respecting the “heavy heart” of others). Consideration is indeed the prudent choice, as v. 21-22 indicate. And God rewards consideration!

**Proverbs 25:16-22**

**Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.**

**Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.**

**A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.**

**Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.**

**As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.**

**If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:**

**For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.**

**Dogs and Time**

When we talk about being considerate, our canine companions come up naturally in the conversation. Dogs are uniquely attuned to human behavior, making them natural candidates for an animal example of consideration. Dogs come in a vast array of shapes, sizes, purposes, and temperaments. They serve a huge number of roles as working dogs and family pets. These days, many of our dogs are companion animals rather than serving a practical role in as guard dogs, hunting dogs, or herding dogs. Fortunately, dogs are highly adaptable animals, mostly able to adjust to the wide array of demands we place on them. But it seems that there may be more to dogs than their famous loyalty, bravery, and status as “man’s best friend.” Research suggests that dogs may be able to detect the passage of time with a substantial degree of accuracy. Many people have noticed that their dogs seem to anticipate homecomings—as if the dog were able to read the clock and conclude that their person would be arriving home soon. It is thought that they accomplish this using an extraordinary sensory tool—their nose. Dogs are certainly able to discern scents in great detail, and they can also certainly tell the difference between older and newer scents. It seems likely that dogs use the degradation of scent over time to determine how much time has passed. Which goes to suggest that dogs are more “deliberate, prudent, and given to consideration” than has been generally thought! Certainly dogs are well known to show concern for others, even for the feelings of other species. Which makes them quite considerate in both senses. We humans aren’t as naturally considerate, but we do have Proverbs’ guidance!

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Season 1

Episode 2: Dogs and Super Sense

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