



Wisdom in Practice

A Gentle Answer

Proverbs 15:1-2, John 8:1-11



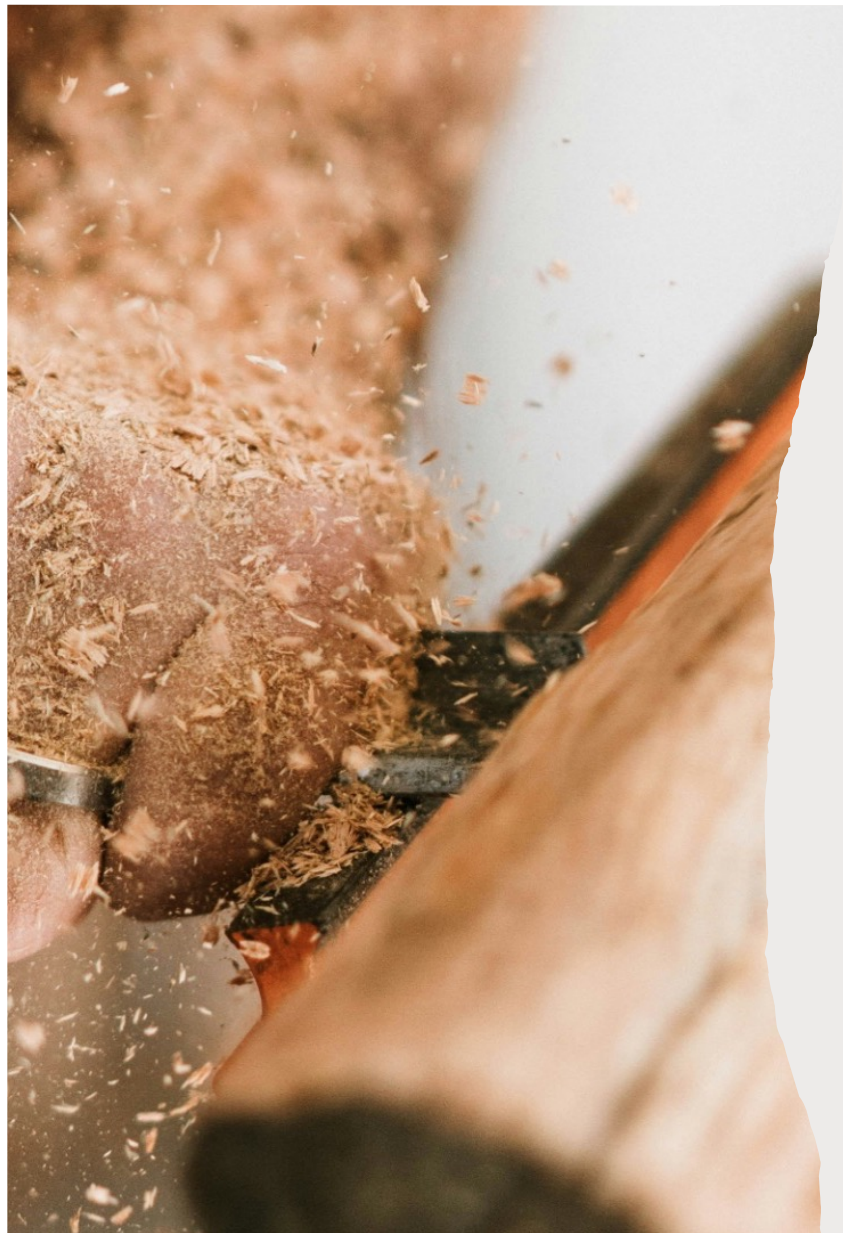
Wisdom Literature

→ **Tools for the Journey**

Proverbs 3:1-2

¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, but
keep my commands in your heart,

² for they will **prolong** your life many years
and bring you **peace** and **prosperity**.



Proverbs 15:1-2

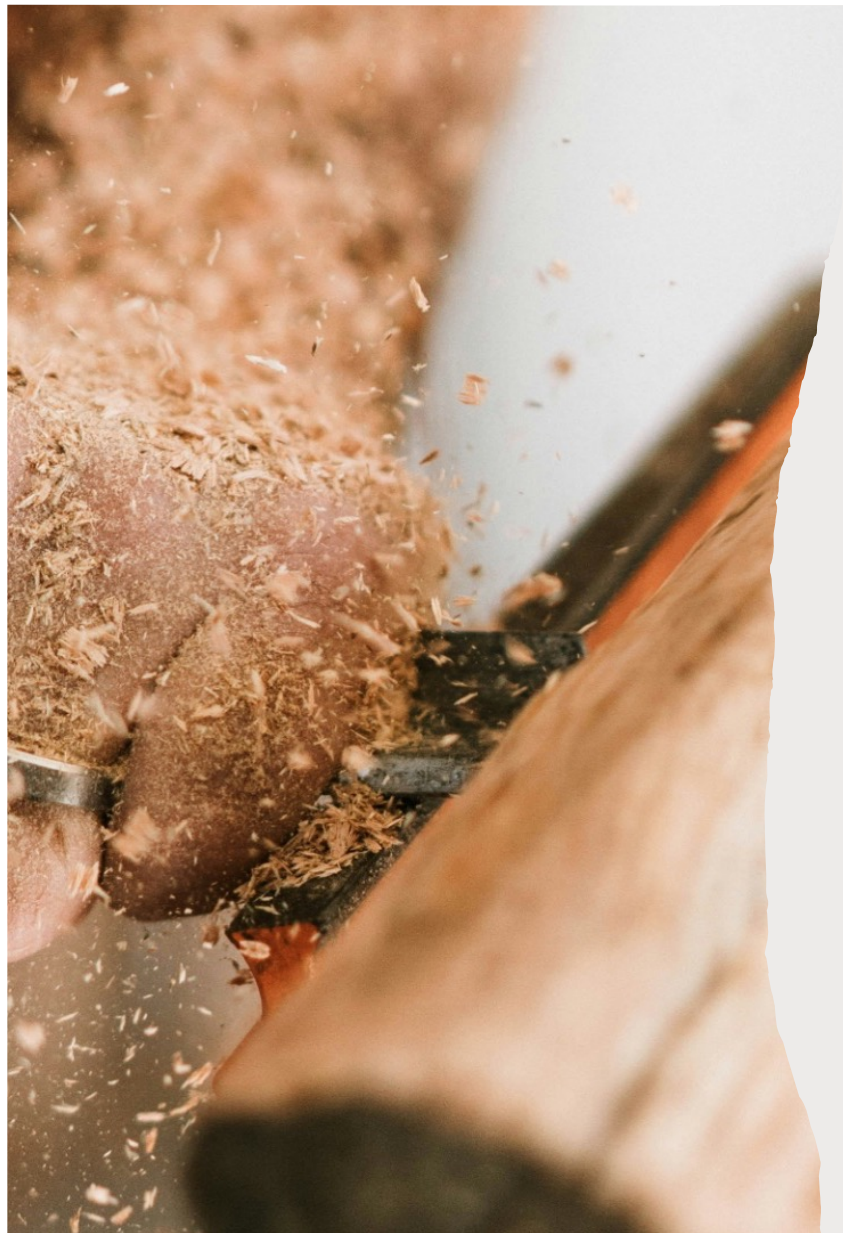
¹ **A gentle answer** turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

² The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.



Every response holds the
potential to **heal or destroy.**

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)*



Proverbs 15:1-2

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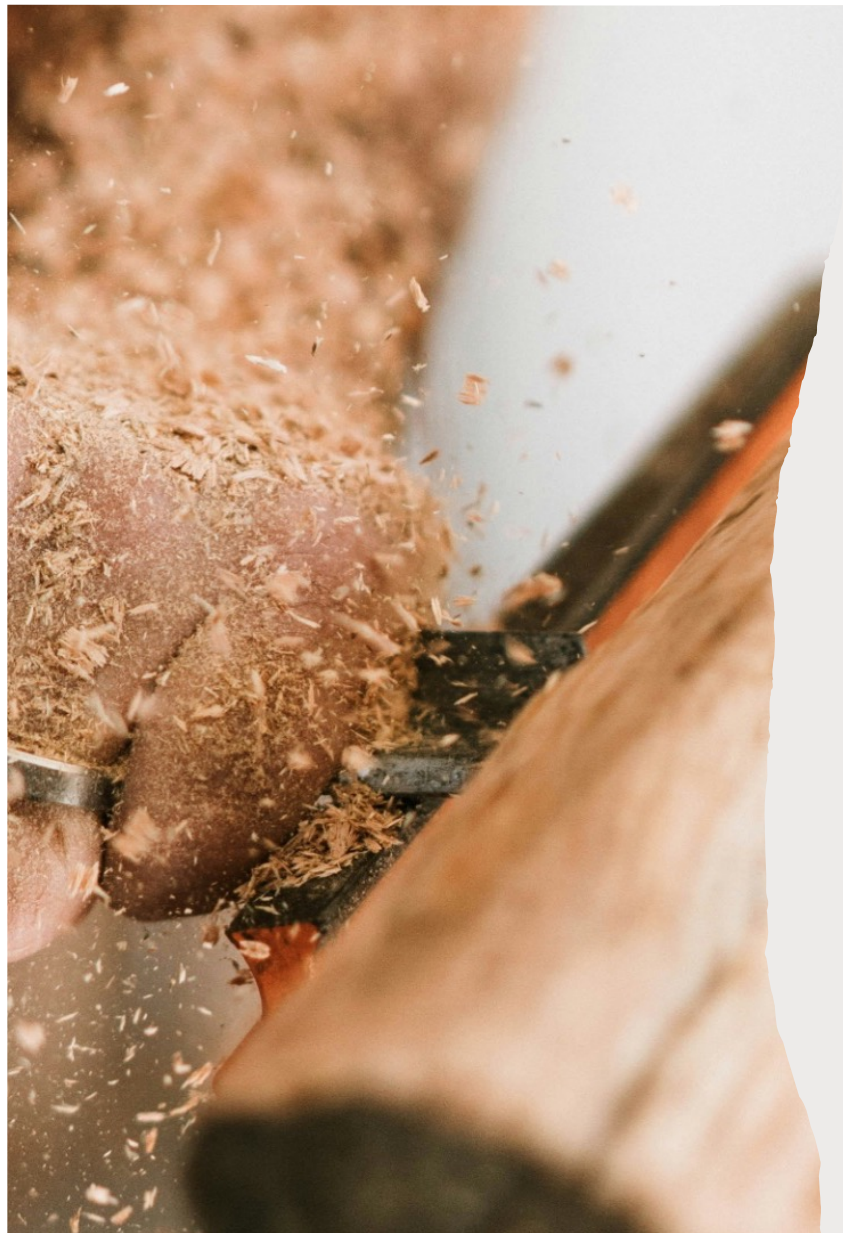
John 8:1-5

¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. ³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery.

They made her stand before the group ⁴ and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”





Proverbs 15:1-2

¹ A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

² The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge,
but **the mouth of the fool gushes folly.**



Gentleness will require us to
create time and space.

...but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. (Proverbs 15:2b)



John 8:6-9

⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. **But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.**

⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ **Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.**

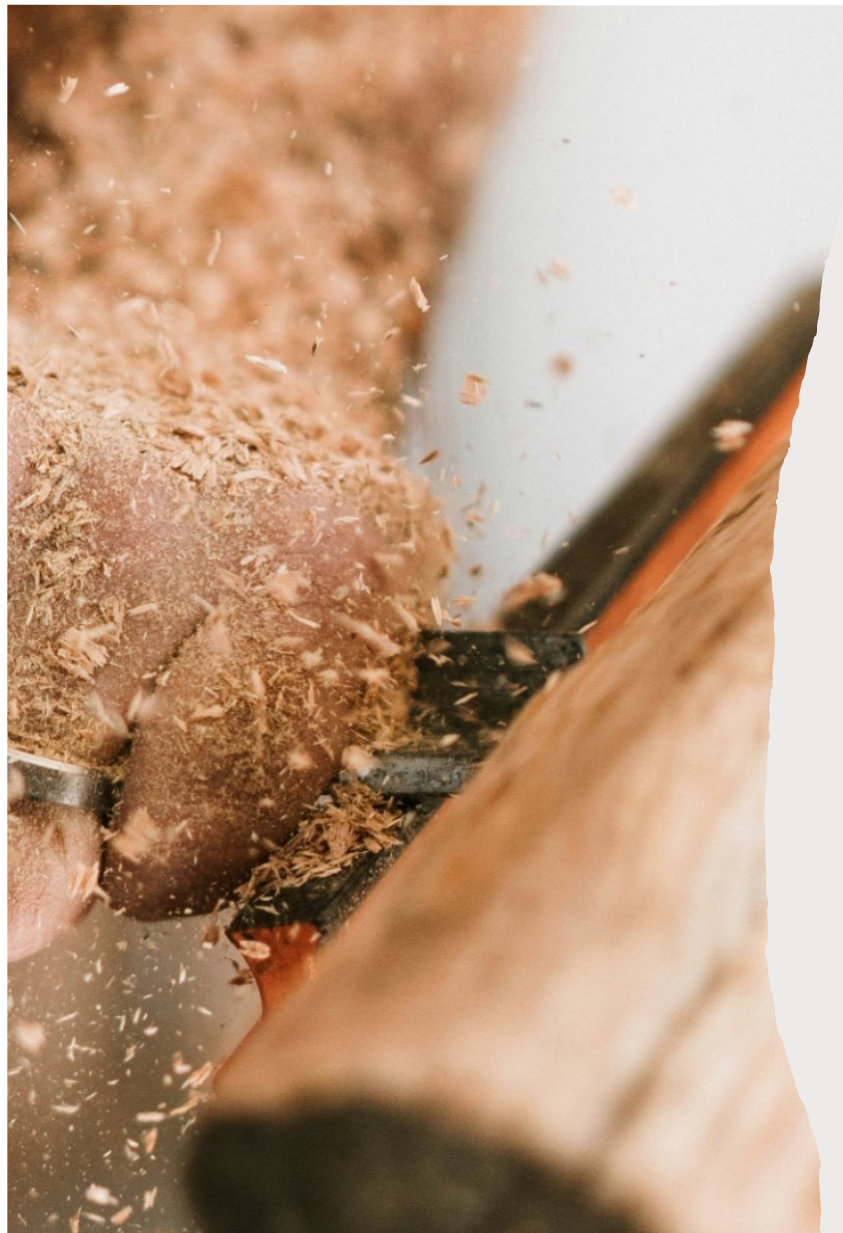
⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.





A gentle answer
is not a weak answer.

*“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first
to throw a stone at her.” (John 8:7b)*



Proverbs 15:1-2

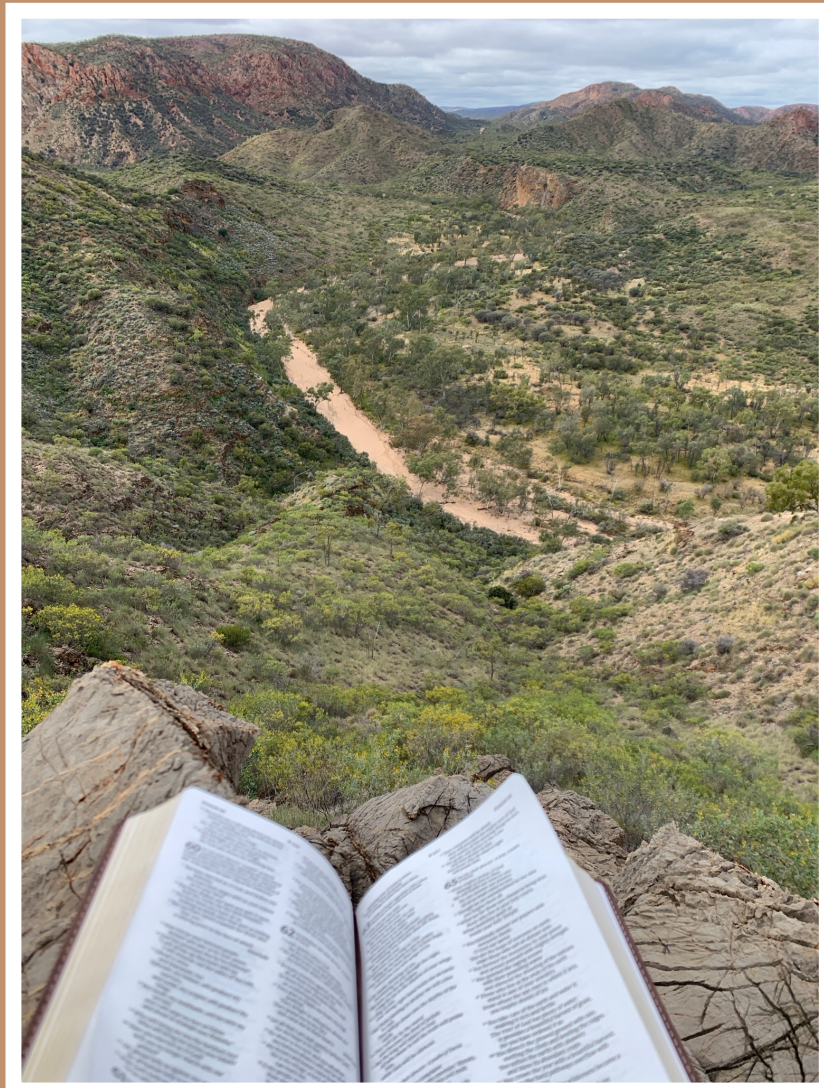
¹ A gentle answer turns away wrath,
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Replace reckless folly with
righteous fruit.

The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge... (Proverbs 15:2a)



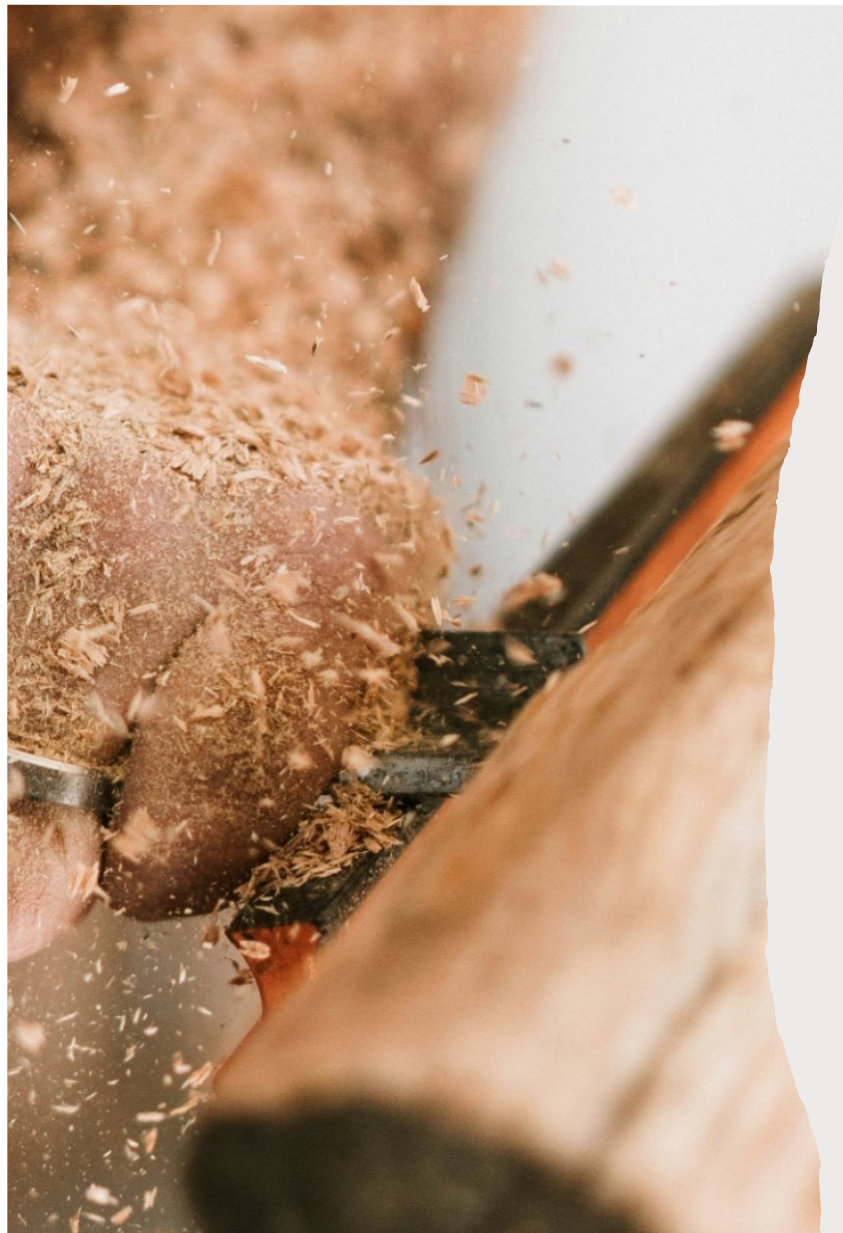
John 8:10-11

¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said.

“**Then** neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “**Go now and leave your life of sin.**”

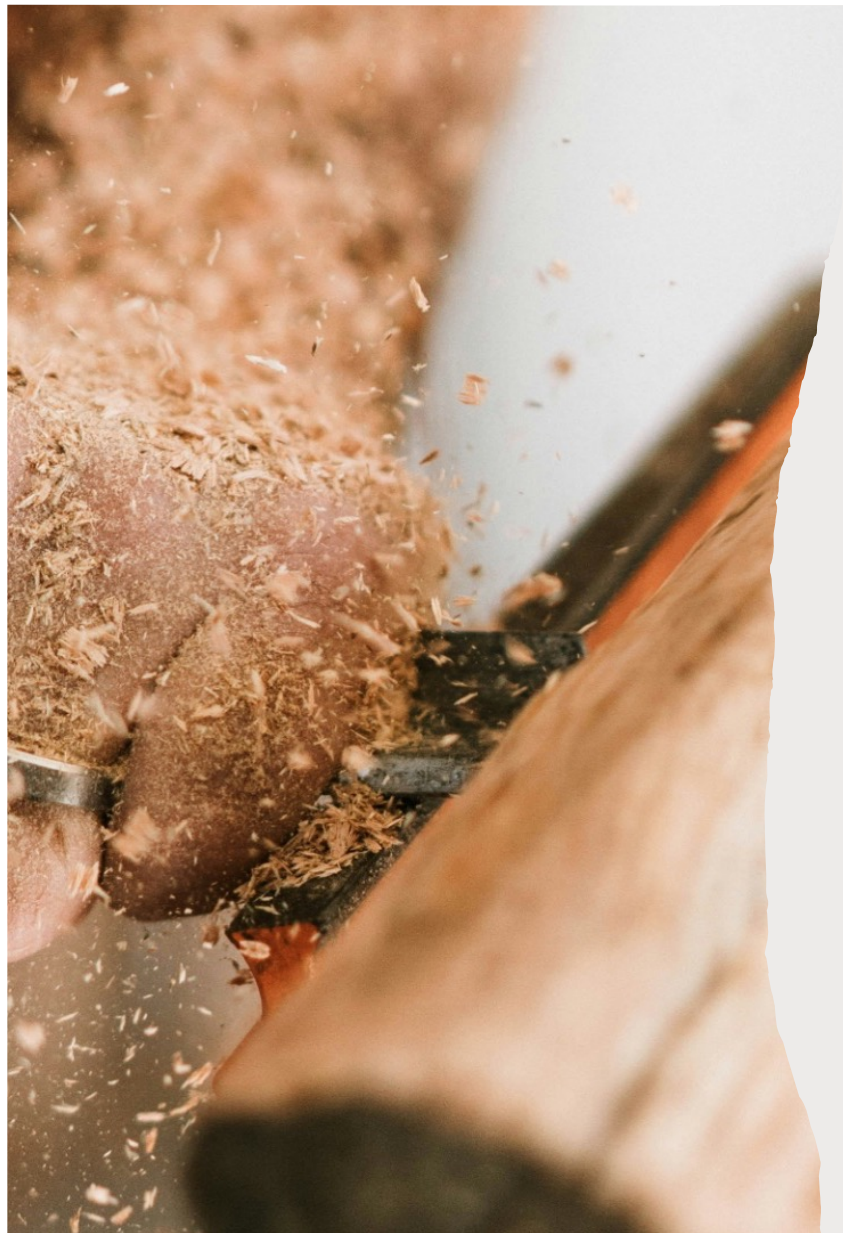




Colossians 4:5-6

⁵ Be **wise** in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to **answer** everyone.



Proverbs 15:1-2

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but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

Remember:

1. Every response holds the potential to **heal or destroy**.
2. Gentleness will require us to **create time and space**.
3. Replace reckless folly with **righteous fruit**.