

The Foolish and the Lazy

Proverbs 26

“Like a flitting sparrow or a fluttering swallow, an undeserved curse goes nowhere.”

-Proverbs 26:2

Why is it foolish to wish bad fortune on others and what does it reveal about us?

➤ We don't have the p_____! Deut. 28:20

* We are e_____ driven (Jealousy, Resentment, Insecurity)

*Psychological challenges (Projection, Tribalism, Lack of empathy)

*Social Influences (Competition, social media)

“You never look good trying to make someone look bad.”

● The Foolish and the Lazy pt. 1

1 Like snow in summer and rain at harvest, honor is inappropriate for a fool.

What are some common themes of this verse?

*Things that are _____ of place

*D_____ of bad timing

King Solomon is saying, just like snow or rain would completely r_____ the grain harvest, giving honor to a foolish person can completely r_____ a people.

What is Honor?

Hebrew word kavod; meaning properly, weight, heaviness, glory, reputation; describing what is weighty in a moral, social, or spiritual sense, human dignity. The visible manifestation of divine presence.

Why is honor inappropriate for a fool?

*They make _____ decisions

*Condone/promotes immorality

*Disdains righteousness worship of _____

*Appoints others like themselves

➤ Proverbs 29:12

How should spiritual leaders handle the weight and responsibility of honor?

*With h_____

*Trusting G_____

*With I_____

➤ 1 Peter 5:1-5

2 Like a flitting sparrow or a fluttering swallow, an undeserved curse goes nowhere.

What is a common theme of this verse?

*Things that d_____ land

King Solomon is saying, just like those birds that follow erratic patterns without landing, so it is with a curse aimed at someone for no reason.

What is a curse?

Hebrew word Qelala; imprecation, accursed; not a magical spell, but condemnation, insult, or declaration of harm. Job 3:1

Why is it also foolish to curse yourself?

➤ We could potentially bring hardship on o_____! Psalm 109:17

How should Christians respond instead of wishing bad fortune on others or themselves?

*P_____

*Wish them _____

*Stay Positive

➤ Numbers 23:8; Colossians 4:6; 3 John 1:2

3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the backs of fools.

What is a common theme of this verse?

*Things that are f_____

*Tools used to train and c_____

King Solomon is saying, just like horses and donkeys need brute force corrections, so it is with a fool.

What is a fool?

➤ Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 1:7

Fool: Hebrew word kesil; stupid, silly; someone who rejects the fear of the Lord, resists correction, unlikely to respond to reason, and persists in self-destructive behavior.

How are whips and bridles used, and what were they used for?

*G_____ *Remind animals of what they've been t_____ to do.

➤ Matthew 11:28-30

What is the danger of not heeding correction for animals/humans?

*Might w_____ off the road *Pain and s_____

➤ Proverbs 14:32; Peter 2:12

How do we learn from correction and become wise?

*Recognition (notice the mistake)

*Re_____ (Why was I corrected? What was the mistake?)

*A_____ (change our thinking, behavior or approach)

*Repetition (Apply the correction)

*Feedback (Keep lines open)

"Instruct the wise, and he will be wiser still; teach the righteous, and he will learn more."-Proverbs 9:9

4-5 Don't answer a fool according to his foolishness or you'll be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his foolishness or he'll become wise in his own eyes.

What is a common theme?

*Responding to f_____ and f_____ *When to speak and when to refrain

➤ Matthew 7:6; 1 Peter 3:15

In this two part lesson, King Solomon says firstly, its unwise to imitate a foolish person's attitude, mannerisms, or approach. Secondly, there is a way to respond to foolishness when the answer is meant to help in a loving way.

What is an answer?

Hebrew word ahnah, means to pay attention, to respond, or to speak, shout, or testify.

How should we respond to fools and foolishness?

*Do not act like _____

*Help them "according to"

Examples: Luke 23:8-9; Matthew 19:21

Why is it important to be careful how we respond to fools and foolishness?

*We don't want to p_____

*We want to promote p_____

➤ Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:31-32

What is one thing you learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

"Life is defined by our ability to identify, respond to, and grow from adversity."