

The Foolish and the Lazy pt. 6

Proverbs 26

“A hateful person disguises himself with his speech and harbors deceit within.”-
Proverbs 26:24

As you reflect on the times you’ve either used flattery or have been flattered, what are some psychological effects to be mindful of?

*Boost Self E _____ *Enhances Mood *Distort Self P _____

*Increases Susceptibility to Influence *Social Acceptance D _____

*Manipulation Awareness

- In short, flattery can be a double-edged sword, uplifting when sincere but manipulative when used as a tool for personal gain.

“Flattery is all right, as long as you don’t inhale.”

● The Foolish and the Lazy pt. 6

23 Smooth lips with an evil heart are like glaze on an earthen vessel.

What is King Solomon comparing in this verse?

- Deceptive f _____ and a Deceptive p _____

Smooth lips with an evil heart:

Fervent lips describes one using intense, flattery, and or passionate language. The problem here lies within the position of ones h _____. King Solomon warns us to be aware of those who disguise evil intent with clever words.

Flattery: excessive and insincere praise, given especially to further one’s own interest.

How do people make evil seem attractive?

*Careful phrases *Compelling w _____ *Looking the p _____

- Matthew 23:25

Like glaze on an earthen vessel:

Clay and earthen vessels were common items used in a typical household. King Solomon says, although a thin coating of glaze makes it appear more attractive, it still doesn’t change the nature of it. The point is, the clay is still cheap.

It’s like putting lipstick on a p ____!

The main point is flattery from an evil heart doesn't change anything. The heart is still e_____ and full of hate.

Why is flattery from an evil heart so dangerous?

- ◆ It can blind us from seeing a person's t_____ motives.
- ◆ It can expose us to p_____ and j_____ from the Lord.

➤ Psalm 12:1-3

24-26 A hateful person disguises himself with his speech and harbors deceit within. When he speaks graciously, don't believe him, for there are seven detestable things in his heart. Though his hatred is concealed by deception, his evil will be revealed in the assembly.

What does King Solomon teach us about hateful people in this verse?

- ◆ C_____: What is their nature? (Proverbs 20:11)
- ◆ C_____: How should we respond? (Matthew 7:15)
- ◆ C_____: What they will receive? (John 3:20)

How does King Solomon describe their character?

*They h_____ behind their speech; disguise means to give a different appearance in order to conceal one's identity.

*They h_____ deceit within; harbor means to give shelter to; conceal, contain, to keep or hold in the mind.

➤ Psalm 55:21; Jeremiah 9:8

What does King Solomon say our counter should be and why?

*Don't b_____ them! Believe means to trust, confide, or accept.

*There are s_____ detestable things in his heart; detestable, those things that are an abomination, disgusting, idolatry.

➤ Proverbs 6:16-19; Romans 16:18

Where does King Solomon say they'll receive their consolation?

*Their deeds will be revealed in the a_____;

The assembly refers to any group brought together for some purpose. In this instance it could refer to a courtroom setting where the guilty person is being judged.

➤ Psalm 7:11; Galatians 6:7-8

27 The one who digs a pit will fall into it, and whoever rolls a stone, it will come back on him.

What is the main idea of this text?

◆ Those who plan e_____ can expect to suffer as a result.

Notice the two types of evil traps people set up for others to fail:

Simple traps: Digging a pit, disguising a hole in the ground, lying, and manipulating.
Genesis 27:22-23 (Jacob)

Difficult traps: Rolling a stone, requiring weight, complexity, schemes and scams.
Esther 7:10 (Haman)

Other than physical suffering, why should we avoid setting traps for others to fail?

*Erodes trust and relationships *Promotes toxic perfectionism and f_____

*Damages morale and motivation *Reflects poor leadership or e_____

➤ Psalm 7:15-16; 9:16; Ecclesiastes 10:8

Instead of setting traps, what is one thing the church should be doing?

*Foster e_____ where people can learn, grow, and safely make mistakes.

➤ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth causes ruin.

What two natures does King Solomon condemn in this verse?

◆ A l_____ tongue.

◆ A f_____ mouth.

Sadly, hateful people often spread l_____ about those they hope to destroy and deceptive people try to catch their victims off guard by p_____ them and giving them insincere compliments.

Notice the effects of lying and flattering

- ❖ **Lying crushes;** using false accusations against someone is an assault on another person's character or conduct.

Have you ever been lied on? How did it make you feel?

*Anger *B_____ *Confusion *S_____

*Loss of trust *Strained connections *Emotional scars

➤ Colossians 3:9

- ❖ **Flattering causes ruin;** Although it's a less obvious assault, it still nonetheless makes the intended victim unsuspecting.

Can you think of someone in the Bible who overcame traps, lies, and flattery?

*J_____! Luke 12:24; Mark 12:15-17; John 6:15; Acts 17:31

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

"Time doesn't heal all wounds, God does."