

Lesson Three

Proverbs: The Fool and the Wise

3. THE FOOL

In Proverbs, three different Hebrews words are translated “fool”:

1. “kesyl” meaning DULL
2. “ewiy” meaning PERVERTED
3. “nabal” meaning STUBBORN

- Fool’s think that their sin is “really living”.

Proverbs 15:21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

- A fool makes light about spiritual things. If they are not careful a foolish attitude can get a hold of people where they turn the things of God into a mockery. The Holy Ghost can be grieved easily and it is a dangerous thing to mock the moving of the Spirit.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

The fool is constantly meddling in trivial affairs. A fool is always concerned about every piece of gossip floating around.

Proverbs 20:3 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

If we do not want to become a fool we need to think on Godly things.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- A fool will constantly return to their sin.

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

The fool is dull, perverted or stubborn.

Proverbs tells us that we need to constantly check ourselves so that we do not fall into one of these categories: simple, scorner or fool. It is easy in the day and age that we live in to become naïve, cynical or dull.

THE WISE

Proverbs will teach us how to become wise.

- Wise people associate with wise people. To become wise we need to associate with those who are wise.

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

- A wise person flees from sin. When sin comes around don't stand there and prove how strong you are. A lot of our troubles come because we let sin get close to us. Be like Joseph and run from sin (Genesis 39).

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

- Wise people discipline their speech. If you spend a lot of your time trying to find something or someone to talk about you will sin. In James 3:8 it tells us that the tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

- Wise People win souls. A wise person cannot coast thru life just going to church, they need to be winning souls and sharing the Word of God with others.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Proverbs contrasts **WISDOM** and **FOLLY** (and even personifies them as women out to woo us!). Folly often appears dumb to everybody, but sometimes (and this is the tricky part) it actually appears smart from a worldly perspective! That is why we need to **MEDITATE** on God's Word.

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

James 3:13-18 (NLT) If you are wise and understand God's ways, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about the good you do, then you will be truly wise! But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your hearts, don't brag about being wise. That is the worst kind of lie. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kinds of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and motivated by the Devil. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at

all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

In the book of Proverbs, King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived (2 Chronicles 1:10, 1 Kings 4:29), gives us insight and advice regarding many of the issues of life that are not directly addressed in the Law or the Prophets (i.e. **PRINCIPLES** and **APPLICATIONS**).

That is why **PROVERBS are PROBABILITIES, not PROMISES.** Generally, the wise prosper while fools do not – but it doesn't always happen that way! These general principles of life are balanced by the reality that the wicked sometimes prosper – but only temporarily!

Psalms 73:2-3 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalms 73:16-17 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

So, whatever the result, we still need to live by God's **PRINCIPLES**.

God does not guarantee uniform outcomes for each proverb, but in studying them and applying them, we begin to understand the wisdom, character and blessings of God. **And that alone will make us grow!** The aim of Proverbs is to give us skill in all our human relationships.

We don't automatically get wisdom! It has to be known (1:2), received (1:3), heard (2:2), taken into the heart (2:10), found (3:13), kept (3:21), gotten (4:7), learned (4:11), attended to (5:1), understood (8:5), valued (8:11), purchased (23:23), and loved (29:3).

All of the wisdom expressed in Proverbs is hidden in Christ, so we need to know Him, receive Him, hear Him, taken Him into our hearts, find Him, keep Him, get Him, learn Him, attend to Him, understand Him, value Him, purchase Him, and love Him!

Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

THERE IS NOT A "RULE" FOR EVERY LIFE SITUATION. We have to ACQUIRE and APPLY the wisdom of God (His Word) to our own lives. It is dangerous to try to "claim" a verse from Proverbs while ignoring the total message of the book!

PROVERBS TELLS US THAT GOOD THINGS ARE LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF WE DO RIGHT

Lesson Three - Questions

Proverbs: The Fool and the Wise

1. List 4 characteristics of the fool:

2. List 4 characteristics of the wise:

3. There is not a “rule” for every life situation.. We have to _____ and
_____ the wisdom of God to our own lives.

4. In Proverbs, three different Hebrews words are translated “fool”:

1. “kesyl” meaning _____

2. “ewiyl” meaning _____

3. “nabal” meaning _____

5. Proverbs contrasts _____ and _____.