
*“Equipping believers for **growth** and **service** by encountering God through his word.”*

The Bible for Today

September 16, 2009



Our Study Divisions of Proverbs: Using Kenneth Aitken

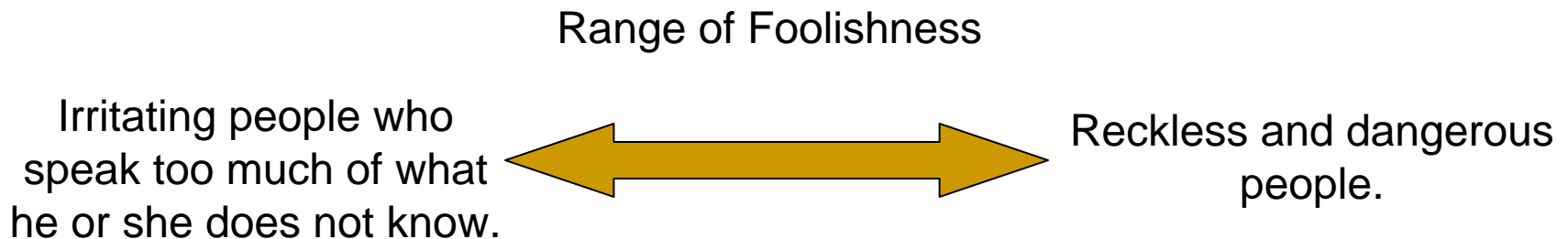
1. Types of Characters/ People One Encounters in life
2. Wisdom in Various Places
 - The Home
 - The Community
 - The Market
 - The Law Court
 - The Palace (Government/ Rulers)
 - The Wisdom School
3. Way of God and Ways of the Humankind

Types of Characters/ People One Encounters

- The Fool
- The Hot Head
- The Proud
- The Sluggard
- The Greedy
- The Mischief Maker
- The Liar
- The Righteous and the Wicked

The Fool

- Fool (“infidel”) lives selfishly, indulges own whims, and believes no higher authority than themselves (they do not hold wisdom)



Commonality: unwillingness to listen/ not teachable
and lack of self control.

Proverbs and the Fool

- A fool acts as a fool all the time; the prudent understands the situation and remains quiet and knows when to speak.
- A fool brings his or her own ruin or problems because he or she sets up the circumstances by actions.
- How fools may be recognized:
Words— usually “stupid” or malicious; talks without thinking or really listening— at times slanderous words. May know when to be keep quiet—so have to distinguish. Speaking without regard or caring how it hurts others or affronts them personally.

Proverbs and the Fool con't...

- How recognized con't:

Behavior— outbursts of anger, quarrels (may come to confrontation), **Prov. 14:16**— reckless behavior without restraint, unmindful of the wrong or the injury they have caused. They remain confident in their behavior, even when others see their flaws.

How the fool reacts to the situation he or she created:

Blames God— always a victim, fate, or God did it; Prov. 19:13 (cf Psalm 14:1 “The fool says in their heart there is no God.”)

Proverbs and the Fool con't...

How to deal with a fool:

1. **Keep quiet** (“Do not cast your pearls before swine”)
2. **Watch how you answer** (Prov. 26:4,5) takes wisdom and sound judgment because one can get caught up in their folly or may need to reprimand the fool because of situation (discernment)
3. **Don't argue** (the exchange can get loud or fool dismisses people's thoughts/ opinions)

Proverbs and the Fool con't...

4. **Don't trust them to work for you** (Hebrew difficult to determine— *rab* (much, master, archer))
5. **Avoid the fool**, we can become like them in time (be careful of the companions we keep)
6. **Don't honor them** (Prov. 26: 1, 8— careful to put them in public office or place of responsibility; does not fit their ability or behavior; hapax)

Proverbs on the Hot Head

- “Heat” (Hebrew is a strong word) used in relationship to snake venom, effect of wine
- Heat associated with quick temper; “short nosed,” nose/ anger– “snorting”

Comparison of **cool headed** and **hot headed**

↙
Patient and disciplined

↘
Lacks self control,
disruptive, injurious

Proverbs on the Hot Head

1. **Acts disproportionately to the situation** (keep rein on temper)
2. **Causes trouble**— can turn a calm situation into a war of words
3. **Lands himself into trouble** (should learn from experience, but doesn't)
4. **Unhealthy** (anger, envy, jealousy can damage health)
5. **Defenseless**— lacks defenses against passions of life or temptations; easily out of self control

Proverbs on the Hot Head con't...

Response:

- **Be careful of friendship
- **Use gentle words when talking with them
- **Don't be the one who provokes a hot head

Be careful with anger/ no telling where it will go when unleashed.

Proverbs on the Proud

- **Pride is folly** (Prov. 16:18) self inflation, haughty— “to be high, raised up” above others contempt for those not like them; **“Pride precedes overthrow”** and **arrogance leads to downfall.**
- **Pride is sin**— OT; rebellion against God (Hebrew pride and majesty same— Ex 15:7; Isa. 2:10, 24:14; Micah 5:4) God is above all things; “human pride and divine majesty has a conflict of interest”—pride usurps what is rightfully God’s; **Pride assumes not just that a person is better than others but better than God—God is thus irrelevant.**

Proverbs/ Humility Desired

Humility is valued/ a mark of wisdom

A humble person is:

- ❑ Teachable
- ❑ Avoids needless confrontation
- ❑ Does not get trapped in the snare of his own pretensions
- ❑ Walks safe and sure path to solid and enduring honor
- ❑ Proverbs 29:23, a word play on “lowly” (proud are brought low, lowly exalted/ given honor)

Proverbs/ Humility Desired

- Proverbs 11:2: “When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom.”
 - Rare Hebrew word used only in Micah 6:8; humility is the proper bearing of men before God.
 - “When pride comes in, in comes contempt.” A Hebrew alliteration not possible in English.

The Bible for Today

- Be discerning
- Work to live humbly in relationship to God and humankind
- Share care/ concern for those mentioned
- Love those with these qualities; they are loved by God also
- What influence might the wise have on the foolish, hot head and the proud?

Proverbs related to Fools

Hallmarks of the Fool

17: 16, 24, 10, 28.
27:22
15:14, 2, 7, 21
26:11, 7, 9
18:2
28:26
12:15, 23, 16
14:33, 16, 24, 8, 12
13:16, 19
24:7
29:11
20:3
10:23
16:25

The Fool's Lot

19: 3
26:3
18:7, 6
14:3,
10:13, 14, 8, 21
16:22

When Encountering a Fool

27:3
17:12
23:9
26:4, 5, 6, 10, 1, 8
29:9
14:7
13:20

Proverbs for:

A Hot Head

17:27

14:17, 29, 30

29:22

15:18, 1

19:11, 19

25:28

16:32

22:24, 25

30:32,33

27:4

The Proud

30:13

16:18, 5

11:2

29:33

18:12

21:4

15:33

22:4