



Wisdom or Folly (Proverbs 9:1-18)

The Way of Wisdom

“Wisdom has built her house, **She has hewn out her seven pillars**; She has **slaughtered her meat**, She has **mixed her wine**, She has also **furnished her table**. She has **sent out her maidens**, She **cries out from the highest places** of the city, “**Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!**” As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, “**Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. Forsake foolishness** and live, And go in **the way of understanding**. “He who **corrects a scoffer** gets shame for himself, And he who **rebukes a wicked man** only harms himself. **Do not correct a scoffer**, lest he hate you; **Rebuke a wise man**, and he will love you. **Give instruction to a wise man**, and he will be still wiser; **Teach a just man**, and he will increase in learning. “**The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom, And the **knowledge of the Holy One** is understanding. For **by me** your **days will be multiplied**, And **years of life will be added** to you. **If you are wise**, you are wise for yourself, And **if you scoff**, you will bear it alone.”” Proverbs 9:1-12 NKJV

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☑ *“Wisdom has built her house, **She has hewn out her seven pillars**; She has **slaughtered her meat**, She has **mixed her wine**, She has also **furnished her table**. She has **sent out her maidens**, She **cries out from the highest places** of the city, **“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”** As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, **“Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed.”** Proverbs 9:1-5 NKJV*

☑ **Dinner is served...Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!**

☑ Wisdom has set the table. It's a great banquet, a wedding banquet. All are invited to come! Eat and drink; dinner is served.

☑ **You prepare a table before me**

☑ *“**The Lord is my shepherd**; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.** Surely goodness and mercy shall*

follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.” Psalms 23:1-6 NKJV

- ☑ The table is set. Are you ready to accept the invitation. Even your enemies cannot stop you. Only one thing can—you!

☑ **Invitation: Come to the Wedding Banquet.**

- ☑ *“And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and **sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding;** and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘**Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”**”* Matthew 22:1-4 NKJV

☑ **Invitation: Come to the Great Banquet.**

- ☑ *“Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and **sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’**”* Luke 14:16-17 NKJV

☑ **Invitation: Come to Me and drink.**

- ☑ *“For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it*

that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, **"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."** The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, **"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."** John 4:8-14 NKJV

☑ "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."**" John 7:37-38 NKJV

☑ "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**" And to her it was granted to be arrayed in

fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God.'" Revelation 19:7-9 NKJV

- ☑ *"And the Spirit and the bride say, "**Come!**" And let him who hears say, "**Come!**" And **let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**"*
Revelation 22:17 NKJV

- ☑ *"**Forsake foolishness** and live, And go in **the way of understanding.**" Proverbs 9:6 NKJV*

- ☑ **Forsake foolishness and live...**

- ☑ The fool rejects the invitation!

- ☑ **Fools make light of the Wedding Banquet and reject invitation!**

- ☑ *"But **they made light of it and went their ways**, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but **those who were invited were not***

worthy. *Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. “**But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** So he said to him, ‘Friend, **how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’** And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘**Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’ “**For many are called, but few are chosen.**””*

Matthew 22:5-14 NKJV

☑ **Unprepared: Not wearing the proper wedding garment!**

☑ *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and **His wife has made herself ready.**” And to her it was granted to be **arrayed in fine linen,** clean and bright, for **the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**” Revelation 19:7-8 NKJV*

☑ **Don't be found naked!**

☑ *“**For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed,** we have a building from God, a house not*

*made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly **desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven**, if indeed, **having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.**” ||*

Corinthians 5:1-3 NKJV

☑ **Fools make excuses and reject the invitation to the Great Banquet!**

- ☑ *“But they all with one accord **began to make excuses.** The first said to him, ‘**I have bought a piece of ground,** and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘**I have bought five yoke of oxen,** and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘**I have married a wife,** and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, **being angry,** said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and **compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.** For I say to you*

that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”” Luke 14:18-24 NKJV

- ☑ *””He who **corrects a scoffer** gets shame for himself, And he who **rebukes a wicked man** only harms himself. **Do not correct a scoffer**, lest he hate you; **Rebuke a wise man**, and he will love you. **Give instruction to a wise man**, and he will be still wiser; **Teach a just man**, and he will increase in learning.”*
Proverbs 9:7-9 NKJV

- ☑ **Dealing with a scoffing wicked man...**

- ☑ Correct and rebuke a man with this character and you will get nothing but retribution.
- ☑ *””Do not give what is holy to the dogs; **nor cast your pearls before swine**, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”* Matthew 7:6
NKJV

- ☑ **Dealing with a wise just man...**

- ☑ Instruct and teach a man with this character and he will appreciate you; he will absorb what you offer and become even better!

☑ *“**The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom, And the **knowledge of the Holy One** is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10
NKJV*

☑ **Back to the beginning...**

☑ *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But **fools despise wisdom and instruction.**” Proverbs 1:7
NKJV*

☑ We know from the beginning of Proverbs that the foundation of wisdom is reverence for the Lord.

☑ The primary objectives:

☑ You must know what the Lords thinks first.

☑ You must seek the Lord’s heart first on every matter.

☑ You must honor the ways of the Lord in every decision.

☑ This is what it means to have knowledge of the Holy One: It is the knowledge **FROM** the Holy One!

☑ To the contrary, fools hate hearing from the Lord.

☑ *“For **by me** your **days will be multiplied**, And **years of life will be added** to you. **If you are wise**, you are wise for yourself, And **if you scoff**, you will bear it alone.” Proverbs 9:11-12
NKJV*

☑ **Wisdom: the payoff!**

☑ A long prosperous fulfilling life for yourself!

☑ **Foolishness: the cost!**

- ☑ A lonely barren unfulfilling life for yourself!

The Way of Folly

“**A foolish woman** is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing. For **she sits** at the door of her house, **On a seat by the highest places** of the city, **To call to those who pass by**, Who go straight on their way: “**Whoever is simple**, let him turn in here”; And as for **him who lacks understanding**, she says to him, “**Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.**” But **he does not know that the dead are there**, That **her guests are in the depths of hell.**” Proverbs 9:13-18 NKJV

Proverbs 9:13-18

- ☑ *“A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing. For **she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city, To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way:**” Proverbs 9:13-15 NKJV*

☑ **The Foolish Woman**

- ☑ We could review all the teachings of Solomon thus far about the adulterous woman, the immoral woman, and the harlot, but what is really emphasized here is the opposition to the nature of wisdom as a woman.

- ☑ *“Wisdom calls aloud outside; **She raises her voice** in the open squares.” Proverbs 1:20 NKJV*
- ☑ *“Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice? **She takes her stand on the top of the high hill**, Beside the way, where the paths meet. **She cries out by the gates**, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors:” Proverbs 8:1-3 NKJV*
- ☑ **And right here in Chapter 9...**
- ☑ *“Wisdom has built her house, **She has** hewn out her seven pillars; **She has** slaughtered her meat, **She has** mixed her wine, **She has** also furnished her table. **She has** sent out her maidens, **She cries out** from the highest places of the city,” Proverbs 9:1-3 NKJV*
- ☑ **Here the foolish woman is nothing but the quintessential opposite of wisdom itself... the perfect fool!**
- ☑ She calls for all other fools to join her, much like the adulterous immoral harlot calls out to the unsuspecting victims of her iniquities.
- ☑ *““**Whoever is simple**, let him turn in here”; And as for **him who lacks understanding**, she says to him, “**Stolen water is sweet**, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” But he does not*

know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.” Proverbs 9:16-18 NKJV

The Snare for Fools

- Going where you know you should not go...
- Wanting what you know you should not want...
- Doing what you know you should not do...
- And taking what you know is not yours...
- Will land you in a place you deserve, but would not wish on your worst enemy—death and hell!

Key Lessons on Sexual Immorality

- [The Lips of an Immoral Woman](#)
- [Don't Do That](#)
- [The Real Cost of a Harlot](#)

NEXT TEACHING

Wise Sayings (Proverbs 10:1-32)