

Week #7 Proverbs 1:10-12

My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit..." [Prov. 1.10-12](#)

The father in this section of the book of Proverbs is warning his son. In these verses he teaches his son how sinners might try to entice him. They will try to have him join them in their evil schemes, and in this example their plans are to do something hurtful to someone without cause. It may be hard for us to imagine someone using these words to tempt us to do something bad. I think that a young man living when these proverbs were written would be able to understand them more easily. If this son were trained for battle, he would understand what it meant to be sneaky and how to fight. I would like to affirm that fighting against evil is a noble and honorable thing to do. It is misuse of this skill and honorable duty that is being warned against. Consider these words that King David wrote.

Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. Take up shield and buckler; arise and come to my aid. Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation." May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay. May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away; may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them. Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me, may ruin overtake them by surprise — may the net they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit, to their ruin. Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation. My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, O LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them." [Psa. 35.1-10](#)

King David had many enemies. He wrote this song as a prayer asking God to deliver him from those who attacked him, hid nets, and dug pits for him to fall in. His prayer asked that they would fall into the very traps they set for him. I believe this is a prayer that God has answered and continues to answer. A wise son would learn not to make plans to harm others.

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." [Lev. 19.18](#)

In the light of these verses from the books of Psalms and Proverbs consider the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. If this commandment is written on your heart it will help guide you to act wisely. As we have been learning, part of being wise is thinking before you act. In this case you are commanded to consider others as just as important as yourself. The things you do and don't do should be in accordance with this rule. Your parents need to help you learn some of these lessons. Children, your job is to listen and respect your parents and to learn from them to be wise. Remember to be good students and don't make it hard for them to teach you.