

# Proverbs Week #11 (1:24-29)

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*Proverbs 1:24-29*

*“Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention; and you neglected all my counsel and did not want my reproof; I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but they will not find me, because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord.”*

These next few verses in the first chapter of Proverbs contain more of the message that Wisdom cries out in the streets. Last week we read about Wisdom’s willingness to pour out her spirit on those who turn to her rebuke, and in this week’s lesson we see the result of those who refuse to listen to her. Last week we heard Wisdom ask, “How long?” This week we learn an important lesson. Wisdom will not cry out forever. For those who refuse, a day will come when it will be too late to listen and turn to her.

It doesn’t seem very nice to laugh at someone’s calamity or to mock when something bad happens to someone. How then can Wisdom do such a thing? This seems like a hard portion of scripture to understand. I want to suggest a few things to help you better understand Wisdom’s message.

First, keep in mind that this is part of the wisdom literature and its message requires understanding as well as application. In that respect it is very much like the parables of Yeshua, and we need to pay close attention to the themes it teaches. The seriousness of the message and its shocking nature are intended to grab our attention.

Second, these verses show that warning was provided before calamity and dread comes. They serve as a warning and tell of dire consequences. We learned last week about those who mock God and laugh at things that are important to Him. If these scoffers and fools do not turn to God in repentance they will one day find themselves left only with mocking and laughter as Wisdom’s response. They refused to listen to God and now God warns that He will refuse to hear them.

Lastly, these verses stress that Wisdom has provided counsel but her counsel was neglected. She stretched out her hand to provide help and was refused. I fear that as we study the Bible we may forget that the words we read are God’s inspired teaching. I want to finish these weeks lesson by reading a parable that our Messiah Yeshua teaches us. It’s theme is fitting to our current verses of study.

*Matt. 25:1-13*

*“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’ Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”*