

Proverbs Week #149 (14:5-7)

A trustworthy witness will not lie, but a false witness utters lies. A scoffer seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge is easy to one who has understanding. Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge. (Proverbs 14.5–7 NAS95)

There are three types of people we want to learn about in order to avoid being like them: a false witness, a scoffer, and a fool. We need to learn about them not to be like them but instead to be like those who are trustworthy, who have understanding, and who are wise enough to know when it is the right time to walk away from foolish talk. Each verse from today's Proverbs lesson will give us a little more wisdom. Are you ready to learn from Wisdom?

First, telling the truth is important. Have you ever told someone something that wasn't true? Have you ever lied about breaking something or doing something wrong because you were afraid of getting in trouble? God tells us not to bear false witness (not to lie) and also teaches us that we should speak the truth to each another. When we lie we not only dishonor God but we also make it harder for others to trust us.

Being truthful is more than just not lying. It also involves actively speaking what is true. One way we can do this is to make it a habit to bless the Lord and to praise Him. Listen to the words of this song and think about how they relate to telling the truth.

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. (Psalms 34.1–3 NAS95)

The second person we want to learn about is the scoffer. What is a scoffer? The Hebrew word translated as scoffer is *leits*. It is found fourteen times in the book of Proverbs. Nine of these fourteen times the highlighted characteristic of the scoffer is his rejection of reproof or discipline. This type of fool is aggressive and not only personally rejects and despises Wisdom but tries to find others to join him in abandoning Her.

Our second verse teaches us that those who have understanding find learning wisdom an easy task. Yeshua taught His disciples that they would need to be like little children in order to enter His kingdom. Those who humble themselves and seek the Lord will find Him. I wonder if Yeshua had the words of this song on His mind when He was teaching that lesson.

Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life and loves length of days that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. (Psalms 34.11–14 NAS95)

The third person in today's lesson is the fool. This third verse talks about being in the presence of a fool? What do you think that means? When we stand with someone face to face and talk with them we try to be polite and respectful. We listen to others words and try to understand what they are saying. When we observe that a person is a fool we find ourselves in a hard place. We want to be respectful but we also know that it is not wise to honor (or give weight) to a fool. Sometimes the best way out of this kind of hard situation is to remove ourselves from the conversation. Here are a few things to remember concerning fools.

A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind. (Proverbs 18.2 NAS95)

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (Proverbs 13.20 NAS95)