

## Proverbs Week #59 (6:12-15)

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*“A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a perverse mouth, who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, who points with his fingers; who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, who spreads strife. Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.”*  
Prov 6:12-15

**Last week I asked, as individuals and families how can we guard against being worthless and wicked people? We must trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding. We could acknowledge Him in all our ways (Prov 3:5,6) by exercising our mouths in the following ways:**

1. Speak God’s words - put His words on your lips by speaking them out loud (Psa 1)
2. Praise and worship God - use your mouth to praise and worship God (Psa 33)
3. Encourage someone to do what is good— help someone with your words (1 Thes 5:11, Heb 10:24)
4. Don’t slander (repeat stories that defame others) – to forget this and do it is a crime in God’s eyes (Lev 19:16, Prov 11:13)
5. Don’t be a complainer – if you do you may be counted with the ungodly of the world (Jude 16; Num 14:27)
6. Be thankful – “in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in the Messiah Yeshua” (1 Thes 5:18)

It is extremely important to live in accordance with God’s ways. The worthless person/wicked man that our verse describes is warned here. The warning declares that calamity will come suddenly and will cause a brokenness that cannot be healed. This warning reminds me of a parable that Yeshua taught.

*“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.”* Matt. 25.1-13

The Messiah will return some day. The scriptures teach that for some this day will be like a thief that breaks into someone’s house at night. (Matt 24:43) The Messiah tells us to be on alert! I do not believe that we know or anyone can predict the exact date this will happen. However, I do believe that for some the day will not catch them by surprise. Paul teaches those who are “not in darkness” will not be overtaken by this day as a thief (1 Thes 5:11).

In this passage Paul reminds us that those who have a true faith in Messiah are “of the day” and we should live as those who are in the light of God’s revelation. He speaks of putting on a breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation (1 Thes 5:8). As individuals and families we are in a battle. We must have the courage and determination to stand with God and exercise ourselves in faithful obedience to His ways.

What makes Yeshua’s warning and today’s Proverbs reading so important is that both speak of a time when it will be too late to ‘get oil’ or repent. Next week, Lord willing, we will look at seven things the Lord hates. May we continue to connect this theme of warning with those things that God requires and provides for us to do and teach. These lessons apply to each one of us. If you were thinking of someone who really needs to hear this message I would caution you to stop for a moment. Do not be wise in your own eyes (Prov 3:7, 26:12). Also, do not wait or put off considering these things. May God give you the opportunity TODAY to stand firm with Him.