

## Proverbs Week #85 (9:13-18)

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*“The woman of folly is boisterous, she is naive and knows nothing. She sits at the doorway of her house, On a seat by the high places of the city, calling to those who pass by, who are making their paths straight: “Whoever is naive, let him turn in here,” And to him who lacks understanding she says, “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 Sheol.*

*Proverbs 9:13-18*

Folly is her name and death is her game. However, as we learn today her invitation is loud and speaks of things that are “pleasant” and “sweet.” There are all around us (and maybe even in our own hearts and minds) influences that will invite us to depart from a straight path and turn toward ways of thinking and living that end in death. The full wisdom of today’s verses is intended for mature audiences. Even so, the principles taught could be applied by those who are young and naïve. The topics of today’s lesson need to be understood by teacher and student alike. Not everything is what it appears to be.

**Learn:** The first few verses of Psalm 1 provide us with a view of learning that is accomplished in practice and not just in theory. It tells of one who is blessed because instead of sitting, standing, and walking with those who are wrong they meditate on God’s Torah and delight in it. I think we can also say that this meditation can be seen as having a positive effect and that this person sits, stands, and dwells with those who are righteous and wise. My point here is that learning God’s ways is not just theoretical it applies to our everyday life. Although the examples given in the verses above may seem vague or theoretical, the lessons they seek to teach are extremely practical.

**Discern:** What we need to develop are the skills to discern now what “hindsight” will teach us if we are unwilling to leave our naivety. Do you understand what that means? Do you know what hindsight is? Hindsight is the realization of something after it occurs. It is looking back on something and after-the-fact realizing the fullness of what was really happening. It is that “light going on” moment when we say, “Finally, now everything makes sense!” I think it is this idea that the writer of Hebrews speaks about when he says, “...who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Heb 5:14)

**Receive:** Our goal in this study is to be effectual hearers (James 1:25). If all we are doing is hearing the words that scripture is saying and not applying what we hear, we are deceiving ourselves. This process of training our families and ourselves directly relates to our ability to listen to what God is saying. Leaning with our faith and trust completely on Him we seek to faithfully stay on His straight and narrow path (Prov 3:16,17). What we receive is not just information that needs to be applied but the opportunity to live in cooperation with our Creator with the goal of glorifying Him with joy.

**Impart:** We need to stay connected with God at all times. Yeshua teaches us that He is the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5). Apart from Him not only can we not bear any fruit but He also tells us that we can “do nothing.” Just as a branch of a tree will die if it is broken off, so we too will wither and fade if we are not connected to our God. God expects great things of us but He does not expect us to rely on ourselves and try to accomplish His plans in our own strength. We do not want to be men and women of folly, knowing nothing, and leading people to Sheol. If we are to live out His truth and impart His wisdom to others, we must be nourished from our God. Those who “do and teach” all of God’s instructions, Yeshua calls great in the Kingdom. The lessons we learn must be demonstrated and credible.

This is our last lesson in this section of the book of Proverbs. We turn next to the section of the book that will be teaching us short and powerful statements of wisdom. Are you ready as adults, young people, and children for the lessons that are ahead of us? I have spoken to a few people who are thinking about sorting through the upcoming verses and organizing them into different tools. Their idea is to attach different verses to different tools - a file for those things that encourage friendship, a filter to teach about sorting through ‘mixed messages,’ or a hammer as a reminder that something needs to be done with this information (like applying it properly – hitting a nail and not your thumb). If you have other ideas of how to integrate these lessons into your personal and family life, please share them with me. It will make a difference in how we learn together.