



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE PROVERBS 1:20-33

LESSON: WISDOM CALLS THE FOOLISH—September 6, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

¹King Solomon ruled the nation of Israel for 40 years, and brought peace and wealth to the nation. He learned and wrote many proverbs (wise words) with the collection of 3000 proverbs (1 Kings 4:29-34). When he was young, Solomon obeyed God. He asked God for wisdom, and God gave it to him (1 Kings 3:9, 12).

Proverbs 1-19—SYNOPSIS:

How Proverbs Can Be Used (1:1-7).

1 These are the proverbs of King Solomon of Israel, the son of David. **2** Proverbs will teach you wisdom and self-control and how to understand sayings with deep meanings. **3** You will learn what is right and honest and fair. **4** From these, an ordinary person can learn to be smart, and young people can gain knowledge and good sense. **5** If you are already wise, you will become even wiser. And if you are smart, you will learn to understand **6** proverbs and sayings, as well as words of wisdom, and all kinds of riddles. **7** Respect and obey the Lord! This is the beginning of knowledge. (*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge KJV*). Only a fool rejects wisdom and good advice (CEV).

Warnings against Bad Friends (1:8-19).

8 My child, (son) obey the teachings (*instruction*) of your parents (*father, and forsake not the law of thy mother KJV*), **9** and wear their teachings as you would a pretty hat or a lovely necklace. **10** Don't be tempted by sinners or listen **11** when they say, "*Come on! Let's gang up and kill somebody, just for the fun of it!*" **12** *They're well and healthy now, but we'll finish them off once and for all.* **13** *We'll take their valuables and fill our homes with stolen goods.* **14** *If you join our gang, you'll get your share.*" **15** (*My son*) Don't follow anyone like that or do what they do. **16** They are in a big hurry to commit some crime, perhaps even murder. **17** They are like a bird that sees the bait, but ignores the trap. **18** They gang up to murder someone, but they are the victims. **19** The wealth you get from crime robs you of your life (CEV).

LESSON: I. PROVERBS 1:20-22

1:20 **Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:—** There are three voices from time to time that are trying to get our attention. (1.) Once the son has heard the father's voice of instruction, and (2.) then the voice warnings of bad friends enticing him to do wrong, (3.) then there is another voice crying for his attention—the voice of Wisdom! Wisdom goes out to young inexperienced men, youth, young leaders, and Solomon, the author is frequently calling them my son or my children using a fatherly tone to instruct. Wisdom shouts in the streets and is a personification wherever crowds gathered where wisdom came alive. Here, wisdom is like a woman "**she uttered**" ²because Hebrew grammar necessitates feminine

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/proverbs1-9-lbw.htm>

² https://biblehub.com/q/Why_is_wisdom_female_in_Proverbs_1_20.htm

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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agreement, and feminine imagery embodies life-giving covenant nurturing. The Hebrew word for wisdom is grammatically feminine. The streets represent public places where people gather, symbolizing that wisdom is accessible to all who is willing to listen and learn.

1:21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,— In this verse **Wisdom cried** (She shouts); it's not hidden, but loud in the marketplaces and near the city gates where important life decisions are made, and she utters her words of instruction. This reminds me of street preachers who proclaim the gospel of Christ. There is an urgency of the message to draw others to Christ, and no one can claim they didn't hear the Word. Therefore, when the Word of Wisdom needs to get out, it's cried out in open places. It's apart of our daily lives, and makes us accountable!

1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?— Wisdom is crying with a question: *"How much longer will you enjoy being stupid fools? Won't you ever stop sneering and laughing at knowledge?"* Now that was to the point! This Proverb addresses three types of individuals, and each will represent a different attitude toward wisdom and understanding. ³The "**simple ones**" are those who are naive or inexperienced, lacking wisdom and discernment; who are easily misled, often content with simplicity and unaware of their ignorance. The **scoffers** actively mock wisdom, showing resistance and arrogance toward learning. The **fools** not only ignore knowledge, but actively reject it, preferring to remain in folly rather than seek understanding. Instead, God's solution through Solomon shows us: *'If you are simple, then change your ways! If you insult people, then you must stop! If you are foolish, then you must learn the truth!'*

II. PROVERBS 1:23

1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. When we turn, we listen at the correction (reproof), from wherever it came, for God says He will give us what we need at that moment. He will pour out His Spirit upon us, and He will make known His words unto us, and tell us what His thoughts are. Repentance is a necessary response to God's rebuke. It involves a change of mind and heart. Whatever the mind thinks, the heart receives, and the mouth speaks. Therefore, turn away from foolishness, and turn towards wisdom.

III. PROVERBS 1:24-27

1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;— Wisdom is calling. There are consequences in refusing the call of wisdom. Wisdom was completely ignored when God stretched out His hand, for no man regarded to listen. When advice is refused, God will allow what they want, instead of what He needs them to want. Experience is a good teacher, but some things don't have to be experienced ourselves: Just Heed Wisdom!

1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:— Solomon spoke what was needed in verse 23. He gave why: *"Because I (wisdom) have called."* And now Solomon speaks *"But you rejected my advice; you made it nothing, and paid no attention to all my counsel when I*

³ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=proverbs+1%3a22+meaning&q=UT&pq=proverbs+1%3a22&sk=AS1UT7&sc=12-13&cvid=D2D737C561FF4B3A9676C27BA297CFF0&FORM=QBRE&sp=9&ghc=1&lq=0>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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warned you; reproved you." Verses 24-25 give examples of deliberate refusals: you refused... you ignored...you despised. Sound counsel changes our lives, not set us back.

1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;— This verse is the measured response to verses 24-25. Wisdom, speaking and addressed to "simple ones... scoffers... fools." They have gotten into a place where their own decisions rule them, "So when you are struck by some terrible disaster and calamity strikes, wisdom will mock when dread comes, and terror overwhelms you." This means immediate consequences because they did not take heed; did not receive counsel or reproof. And so, Wisdom says I will laugh and mock. You see mockers delight in mocking, but Wisdom's laugh and mock is not like that; it's not borne out of hatred or spite but, just knowing you can't fight against God. You can willfully reject God's Wisdom, but how ridiculous is that decision?

1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you— This is what the end brings when not taking sound counsel. "She" (wisdom) did not refer to "IF" but says "**WHEN.**" When fear comes like a storm; a sudden ruin arrives; dread, and destruction like a whirlwind, and distress and anguish replace your peace and consume you, they bring consequences, Hosea 8:7 pictures the same principle: "For they sow the wind, and they reap the whirlwind." God takes a stance, then...

IV. PROVERBS 1:28-31

1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:— Who are "They?" - All that heard the wisdom of counsel or reproof, and wouldn't heed, especially the ones mentioned in verse 22—Simple, Scorners, and Fools. So, now they are asking for wisdom's help, but wisdom won't listen. They will search, but won't find wisdom. Heaven goes silent. The answer just won't come, and it's pointless for them to search for it. Remember, you can't knock at **heaven's door** when you didn't hear **His voice**!

1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:— God gives knowledge and understanding. And they refused to respect what they could have learned from. It is the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction (V.7). there was no reverence, but a hate of the knowledge given.

1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. The rejection of sound advice from wisdom comes at a harsh price. When we've paid no attention to warnings, we've highly favored our own wisdom. The summation of all this is: Make the right choice! Let not pride stand in the way!

1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. "Now you will eat the fruit of what you have done, until you are stuffed full with your own schemes; your own arrangements." This means their backs have turned away from sound counsel, and they will eat the fruit and be filled with their own choices. Remember, whatever seed you've sown will come up!

V. PROVERBS 1:32-33

1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. "Turning away of the simple, and the prosperity of fools shall slay them, and destroy them" means that God is not destroying them, but they are destroying themselves by of their



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waywardness and their complacency, thereby causing their destruction. Sin and self-satisfaction bring destruction and death to stupid fools.

- Moral starvation—hatred of knowledge breeds spiritual famine.
- Self-inflicted devastation—Their own complacency will destroy them.
- Death of the simple—rejection matures into eternal loss.

1:33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Solomon gives the remedy: *"But if you listen to me, you will be safe and secure without fear of disaster."* It takes one step—just listen! Don't put your own idea into it. Don't turn another way, for this wisdom is accessible, and will bring you safely through the trials and conflicts, and you'll live in peace and be unafraid! The voice of wisdom is really the voice of God speaking through Solomon, for Solomon asked for wisdom to lead his people. What we all need is God's wisdom, and we will have it by sitting along with Him, reading His Word, and doing what He says after we've heard Him speak. If He did it for Solomon, He can do it for us.

SUMMARY:

⁴The plea for wisdom continues in this section. In fact, wisdom appears as a female and cries out in the streets. She calls out to the crowds at the gates of the fortified cities (1:20-21). She addresses the simple minded, the scorers, and the fools (1:22). Wisdom cannot bear the sight of these sinners moving off toward hell and destruction without crying out. She pleads with men to turn, and the reward will be the prophetic promises of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (1:23). Because the people feel no need of God's assistance when wisdom called and stretched out her hand, and she was refused, and not regarded, they did not know, but a day will come when wisdom will laugh at their calamity and mock their bitter anguish (1:24). What can be worse than for a lost soul to remember in hell the gospel messages he once listened to, and refused, and would not accept reproof for his life (1:25-26). Fear will come like a storm, destruction like a whirlwind, and distress and anguish will be overwhelming, but it will be too late, and God will pay no heed to their pleadings, for they hated knowledge, and chose not to fear the Lord (1:27-29). There was a temporary joy of independence; but that joy was destined to turn to bitterness of soul, for their turning away from wisdom, and their despising reproof produced a false sense of well-being that led them to destruction (1:30).

This entire passage could well be used as the basis for a stirring evangelistic message for men to turn from the utter folly of sin to the wisdom of saving faith in Christ. The message is addressed to men who are persistent in turning from the way of wisdom. Their backs have turned away from sound counsel, and they will eat the fruit and be filled with their own choices. Whatever seed sown will come up! To all who refuse to listen, they will receive their just reward, for destruction will overtake them. But if they listen, they will be safe and secure without fear of disaster. (1:31-33).

APPLICATION:

There comes a time to thank God that when you humbly admit your foolish mistakes to Him, He is patient and forgiving. Asking for God's advice is better than trusting in our own choices!

⁴ <https://www.family-times.net/commentary/a-plea-for-wisdom-proverbs-1-20/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

