

WHEN CHOOSING A LEADER

TEXT: (Proverbs 24:7, NIV)

⁷ Wisdom is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths.

INTRODUCTION

1. “Wise conversation is way over the head of fools; in a serious discussion they haven’t a clue” (Proverbs 24:7, MSG).
2. “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1, NIV).
3. “Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions” (Proverbs 18:2, NIV).
4. “Wisdom is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths” (Proverbs 24:7, NIV).
5. “Wisdom is too exalted for a [hardened, arrogant] fool; He does not open his mouth in the gate [where the city’s rulers sit in judgment]” (Proverbs 24:7, AMP).
6. “But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell” (Matthew 5:22, NIV).

I. NABAL

1. “Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him” (I Samuel 25:25, NIV).
2. “Wisdom is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths” (Proverbs 24:7, NIV).

A. Cruel and Mean

1. “His wife was named Abigail. She was wise and beautiful, but Nabal was cruel and mean” (I Samuel 25:2-3, NCV).
2. “The words of fools start quarrels. They make people want to beat them” (Proverbs 18:6, NCV).
3. “Without wood a fire goes out” (Proverbs 26:20, NIV).
4. “Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9, KJV).
5. “Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14, KJV).

B. Arrogant and Overconfident

1. “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life” (I Timothy 6:17-19, NIV).
2. “Nabal answered David’s servants, ‘Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days’” (I Samuel 25:10, NIV).

3. "When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'" (I Samuel 18:6-7, NIV).

C. Wisdom Was Over His Head

1. "These men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them" (I Samuel 25:15-16, NIV).
2. "He sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!'" (I Samuel 25:15-16, NIV).
3. "One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, 'David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. Yet these men were very good to us'" (I Samuel 15:14-15, NIV).
4. "David said to his men, "Each of you strap on your sword!" So they did, and David strapped his on as well. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies" (I Samuel 25:13, NIV).
5. "About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died" (I Samuel 25:38, NIV).

II. THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

A. The Rich Fool

1. "Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me'" (Luke 12:13, NIV).
2. "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry!"'" (Luke 12:18-19, NIV).

B. Greedy and Self-centered

1. "The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced" (Mark 4:18-19, NLT).
2. "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'" (Luke 12:20, NIV).

C. Greed Is Deadly

1. "When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath" (Joshua 7:21, NIV).
2. "Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor....
Then all Israel stoned him" (Joshua 7:24-25, NIV).

III. WISDOM IN SELECTING LEADERS

1. "Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3, NIV).

A. Devoted to God

1. "Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3, NIV).

B. Have a God-centered Heart

1. "After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do'" (Acts 13:22, NIV).
2. "Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people...and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the LORD" (II Kings 22:19, NIV).
3. "For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel" (Ezra 7:10, NIV).

C. A People-centered Heart

1. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (John 13:15-17, NIV).
2. "Wisdom is too high for fools; in the assembly at the gate they must not open their mouths" (Proverbs 24:7, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off" (Acts 13:2-3, NIV).