

## Wise or Otherwise

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Ladies donate ol jewelry bring it last day is Sun. *Alabaster Jar Project*, HT
- B. Slide2-6 Thrive: Mike Ramsey. Message from Nate is online if they want to take a listen.

### II. Slide7 Intro: Wise or Otherwise

- A. (bumper sticker) “I took an IQ test and the results were negative.”
- B. *Common sense isn't as common as it used to be.* Will Rogers
- C. The wages of sin is *stupidity*.

### III. Slide8 FOOLISHNESS STINKS (1-3)

- A. (1) Folly/fool is used 9 x's in this section.
  - 1. **Folly** creates problems for those who commit it.
    - a) He already compared *a good name* to a fragrant perfume (7:1). So he uses the same image.
- B. Slide9a Who is the *fool* of scripture?
  - 1. The fool in Proverbs is assured a **destructive fate** (Prov 10:14, 21). This destruction comes in part because of his **rebellious attitude** (Prov 10:8). Fools **refuse instruction or discipline** (Prov 15:5; 16:22; 17:10). **Instead**, they **recklessly get themselves into trouble** (Prov 14:16; 18:6). They are also **arrogant** (Prov 12:15) and **untrustworthy** (Prov 26:6). **Fools speak impulsively and argumentatively** (Prov 20:3; 29:9, 11).
- C. There is a **moral** aspect to the fool.
  - 1. Job called his wife foolish when she advised him to **curse God and die** (Job 2:10). The fool **prefers evil** (Prov 10:23; 13:19) & **rejects God** (Ps 14:1). He **rejects repentance** (Prov 14:12), choosing instead to **repeat his folly** (Prov 26:11; 27:22). Fools tend to **bring others down to their level** (Prov 26:4) and **should be avoided** (Prov 13:20; 14:7).
- D. Slide9b The **Perfumer's ointment** was created by blending different spices.
  - 1. The addition of something small, such as a **dead fly**, would **ruin** the perfume.

2. What are the **dead flies** that must be taken out of **your** life?

a) *A little house fly of pride? A horsefly of jealousy? A blowfly temper?*

E. (2) **Right hand, left hand?**

1. In the bible times **right hand** referred to **honor** & the **left, dishonor**. [Mt.25 sheep/goats]

a) Our English word **sinister** comes from the *Latin word* that means *on the left hand*.

F. **Slide10** Why is one wise & another foolish? It is a **heart** issue.

1. Our **heart** is the **center** of our life, our **master control** that governs the issues of life.

a) Prov.4:23nlt *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

G. (3) *You can identify fools just by the way they walk down the street.* NLT

H. **Conclusion:** A wise person will stay away from *folly*.

I. Now lets look at 4 different fools **not** to imitate:

1. *Foolish Rulers. Foolish Workers. Foolish Talkers. Foolish Leaders.*

#### IV. **Slide11 FOOLISH RULERS (4-7)**

A. If anyone needs wisdom it's the **ruler** of a country.

1. It's what Solomon asked for when God asked him what he wanted.

B. (4a) A ruler ought to 1st possess control over himself *before* he tries to control other people.

C. (4b) He says don't run, stay right there, seek to bring peace.

D. (5-7) It's foolish to put fools in high places & qualified people in the low offices.

1. **Slide12** The **servants** in this verse were people who had **neither dignity nor competence** *and yet* were in *a position of authority*.

2. These verses describe situations where people have been placed in *inappropriate positions*.

a) **Fools** and **servants** are elevated to positions of **authority & respect**, **while** the rich and powerful are put in positions of servitude.

(1) Here, the author is concerned with **unfair or unjust situations**.

3. **Solomon's son Rehoboam** was a good example of that.

a) His **pride & unyielding spirit** led to the division of the nation (1 Kings 12).

b) He followed the advice of **young friends** instead of the advice of **the wise counselors**. [Lighten harsh labor? *The older counselors replied, "If you are willing to be a **servant** to these people today and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your loyal subjects."* But *Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men and instead asked the opinion of the young men who had grown up with him and were now his advisers*]

E. (7) He, in a sense, **made the old men to walk & put the young men on horses**.

1. We need to put the best on horses & not apologize for it.

## V. Slide13 **FOOLISH WORKERS (8-11)**

A. He's not teaching that hard work is bad.

1. In each instance, normal day to day activities - **digging a pit, tearing down a wall, breaking rocks, or cutting wood** - are interrupted by some sort of accident, illustrating humanity's limited ability to know or control future circumstances.

B. Slide14 (11) Snake charmers were common as entertainers in that day.

1. Snakes have no external ears. They pick up sound waves primarily through the bone structure of the head. More than the music played by the charmer, it is the man's disciplined actions (*swaying & staring*) that hold the snakes attention & keep the serpent under control. It is indeed an art. www

a) This snake charmer just wanted to collect his money & move on. He was careless, presumptuous & overconfident.

## VI. Slide15 **FOOLISH TALKERS (12-15)**

A. **Their words** were *Destructive, Unreasonable, Uncontrollable & Boastful*.

B. Slide16a (12) **Destructive** – **swallow him up**

1. **Anyone struggle w/speaking gracious words?**

2. **Jesus** always knew **what** to say & **when** to say it. *The Lord God has given Me **The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary.** Is.50:4*

3. *On the other hand, **the left hand** :) the **fool** just blurts it out.*

4. **Slide16b End result:** the foolish talker ends up getting swallowed up by his own lips.

a) **He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.** Prov.13:3

C. **Slide16c** (13) **Unreasonable** – raving madness

D. We've all met people who can talk about any subject that you can bring up.

1. You usually learn of their ignorance when they step on a subject your very familiar with (I like to play ignorant & listen...*till they hang themselves*)

E. **Slide16d** (14) **Uncontrollable** – multiplies words

1. **Talking and eloquence** are not the same: to speak, and to speak well, are two different things. *A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks.*

F. **Slide16e** (14b,15) **Boastful** – no man knows

G. Foolish people talk of *the future* as though they know all about it...

1. Reminds me of *the Psychic* who always answers the phone, *I knew you'd call!*

2. Prov.27:1 **Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.**

H. (15b) The comedy here is that they *knew so much about the future*, yet needed to ask directions to the next well marked city.

## VII. **Slide17 FOOLISH LEADERSHIP (16-20)**

A. **Slide18a** (16,17) **Indulgence**

1. **Real leaders** use their authority to *build the nation*, while mere **officeholders** use the nation to *build their authority*. www

2. **Leaders** should be *spiritually mature* & this comes by obedience to the will of God.

3. A **Statesman** asks, *what is best for my country?*

A **Politician** asks, *what is best for my party?*

A mere **Officeholder** asks, *what is most profitable for me?*

B. **Slide18b** (18) **Incompetence**

C. These guys were so busy w/*Enjoyment*, they didn't have time for *Employment*.

1. When this happens *the building* or the organization starts to *fall apart*.

- a) **Laziness** seems to pinpoint their problem. *If I rest, I rust.* Martin Luther.
- b) Woodrow Wilson wrote, *A friend of mine says that every man who takes office in Washington either **grows or swells**; when I give a man an office, I watch him carefully to see whether he is **swelling or growing**.*

D. **Slide18c** (19) **Indifference**

E. This seems to be *the personal philosophy* of the foolish rulers.

F. **Slide18d** (20) **Indiscretion**

G. Don't curse your Leader *even in your thought/mind.* *wow!*

1. From Ex.22:28 *You must not dishonor God or curse any of your rulers.*
2. **Why not?** Because it will get back to them.
3. **May carry your voice** - similar to the modern phrase *the walls have ears.*
  - a) Probably where we got, *a little birdie told me.*

H. **Lesson:** We must live by *Gods Wisdom* **not** on our Folly.

1. **Slide19** *"Some people **fall** for everything and **stand** for nothing."*
2. **Slide20** *Never do something permanently stupid just because you are temporarily upset.*