

God's Plan for Wisdom

THE WISE VS. THE FOOL

Living a life honoring Christ

READ: PROVERBS 28:25-28

INTRODUCTION

The book of Proverbs consistently contrasts the wise and the foolish—not in terms of intelligence, but in how one responds to God, others, and life's challenges. Proverbs 28:25–28 offers a clear distinction between the paths of wisdom and folly by focusing on issues of pride, trust, injustice, and fear.

Verse 25 identifies one who is greedy as a source of conflict: “A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched.” Greed is ultimately self-centeredness in action. It disrupts peace and community (cf. James 4:1–2), while trust in the Lord fosters contentment and blessing (1 Timothy 6:6–10; Matthew 6:33). In verse 26, the fool is someone who “trusts in his own mind.” This kind of self-confidence is contrasted with walking in wisdom, which means submitting to God's instruction (Proverbs 3:5–6). Wisdom isn't just knowing right and wrong—it's the humility to seek God's ways above our own (Psalm 119:105).

Verse 27 shows how generosity reflects wisdom. “Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.” This principle is echoed throughout Scripture: God calls His people to remember the poor (Deuteronomy 15:7–11; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8; James 2:14–17), and promises to care for those who are generous. Finally, verse 28 describes what happens when the wicked rise: people hide themselves in fear. But when the wicked perish, the righteous flourish. This is a reminder that leadership and influence matter—and that living wisely can shape communities for good or for ill (Proverbs 11:10–11; Psalm 12:8; Isaiah 32:1–2).

Together, these verses remind us that wisdom is not just a private virtue—it affects our relationships, our generosity, and even our society. The wise trust God, live justly, give freely, and walk in humility.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to verse 25, how does greed stir up conflict in relationships or communities? What does it practically look like to “trust in the Lord” instead?
2. What are some modern ways people “trust in their own minds” (v. 26)? How can we develop the habit of seeking wisdom from God?
3. Proverbs 28:27 encourages generosity. How does this verse challenge the way we view our money and possessions?
4. How do the actions of the wicked (v. 28) impact a society? What does this verse suggest about the influence of righteous living?
5. Think of someone you know who embodies godly wisdom. What habits or attitudes do they display? How can we learn from their example?

WRAP UP

The contrast in Proverbs 28:25–28 is clear: the fool lives for self—relying on their own thinking, hoarding resources, and ignoring justice. But the wise trust in the Lord, walk humbly, give generously, and make a lasting impact. True wisdom is found not in intellect or status, but in right relationship with God and others. As James 3:17 says, “The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits...” May we be a people who walk in that kind of wisdom—anchored in trust, marked by generosity, and committed to righteousness.