

Proverbs 9:13–18 (Family Worship lesson in “the Proverb of the day”)

“Recognizing, Avoiding, & Not-Being the Foolish Woman”

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- 13 A foolish woman is clamorous;  
She is simple, and knows nothing.  
14 For she sits at the door of her house,  
On a seat by the highest places of the city,  
15 To call to those who pass by,  
Who go straight on their way:  
16 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”;  
And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,  
17 “Stolen water is sweet,  
And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”  
18 But he does not know that the dead are there,  
That her guests are in the depths of hell.

**Main idea:** Lady Folly is dangerous! Step through her door, and plummet to Hell! So it is important to note her features and avoid her (or avoid being her): noisy/showy, always out and about instead of at home, rebelliously implying that rules are there to keep you from enjoyment, offering the feeling of being special without the corresponding commitment.

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

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Proverbs 9 versus 13 through 18. Is your God's words?

A foolish woman is clamorous. She is simple and those nothing for she sits at the door of her house, on a seat, by the highest places of the city to call to those who pass by who goes straight on their way. Whoever is simple. Let him turn in here as for him, who lacks understanding.

She says to him stolen water is sweet and bread. Eaten in secret as pleasant, but he does not know that the dead are there that her guests are in the depths of hell before the reading of God's and there aren't word.

My sons Proverbs is, especially written to sons like me address. You first, the first part of this chapter chapter verses 1 through 6 of chapter 9, you have the call of wisdom was them appeals to you and the flesh, your remaining fleshliness, even if you're a believer, resists wisdom.

So it's good that the Lord addresses you with the goodness of wisdom so that you can see the value of wisdom. And by the spirit, who wars against your flesh, overcome that resistance and receive instruction and grow in wisdom. But now, in the last six verses of Proverbs chapter 9, you have the opposite, you have fully and foolishness functions this way.

But also women who are foolish function. This way, there's a kind of woman that you should avoid. First thing you see is that she is loud glamorous is the word that Nick and James uses. Boisterous is a word that you find in the margin. She's noisy and showy. She draws attention to herself.

Modesty includes not just the way, a girl dresses. And, you know what, kind of dress on a girl means that you should guard your eyes and if you have to guard your eyes, of course you can't really spend much time with her but there's also behavior that is a modest.

So a girl who has allowed and showing and drawing attention to herself. Watch out for her. This is also why. If you've ever seen the television commercials that are noisy and showy, that's somebody trying to use folly to entice someone else. But she is simple and knows nothing. So there's a lot on the surface and there's nothing underneath the surface.

That's what verse 13 is describing. And you all find that she puts herself and places to get noticed. First 14, she sits at the door of her house or on a seat, by the highest places of the city to call those who pass by who goes straight on their way to the kind of girl who always wants to be out where all the people are and she says, whoever is simple.

Let him turn in here. Now, that's not actually what she's saying. She doesn't say, hey you, stupid come

here, but the first half of the verse is showing you. What you should actually hear, or sorry verse 16 is showing what you should actually hear when you hear something, like, verse 17.

So, a girl who wants you to do something that is frowned upon by others. Naughty, or mischievous or just wants to show her liberty to not be controlled by everyone's rules. So, she's the reason nobody wants you to steal is because the stolen water, is this sweet water. They just want to keep it for themselves and so she, she is always resisting good manners, good, etiquette godliness righteousness, all those rules.

And she along with the devil and foolishness itself, wants you to think that all of those rules and customs and etiquette and manners, that's all just designed to keep you from having the enjo thing. So watch out for a girl, who's trying to get you to push back again, against what the Lord said, what your elders say, what your parents say and then in the second place she says and bread eaten in secret as pleasant.

Now there's nothing wrong with bread but one of the things that a girl who is foolish that you want to avoid will will do is she will try extra hard to make you feel special So so she will make you feel like you're the only ones she say, oh, if you just come away with just me and we're in secret together, that'll make the bread so much better.

And that does imitate and ate something. That is actually true in marriage. I can enjoy a grocery errand with your mother, just because it's with your mother, because of who she is that she is the wife that God has given me that she and I are one flesh. Just like you can have joy in any situation, wherever even if you are captured by people who hate you for being a Christian and you're in a jail cell, all by yourself whom do you still have with you?

You have the Lord with you. What can you do? You can rejoice in the Lord, you can sing. Praise like Paul and Silas do in the bottom. So there's there is a truth. There was a reality that the person who with him you are, especially the Lord and then in a picture of that that you have in marriage, especially your wife can make even bread Pleasant.

The greatest feast in the world, a little bread with gallbladder is a little bread with the Lord himself but it is an imitation corruption of that to, for the girl, who is not your wife to say, if we just eat this together, it'll be pleasant. She's trying to give you some of the feeling of being a husband without the reality of being a husband.

Don't get sucked into that. That's one of the ways that many people in the world. They go from from one relationship to another. That looks and feels a little bit like marriage and that exclusivity that secrecy with one another and and it doesn't have the the covenant of marriage behind it.

And so several things, then to summarize to avoid in the foolish woman, a she's very showy in her behavior B. She really likes me being out where everybody is, which is a contrary to what the Bible tells us in Titus chapter 2, about the godly woman who is a keeper at home and even godly older women, instead of going house to house and being becoming busy bodies because they don't have duties at home.

They continue in a godliness that stays off the beaten path so that they can continue to model the kind of spirit that that a godly younger woman who is got her husband and her children to take care of. So a, the woman folly is noisy and showy B. She always likes to be out all the people are see, she pushes again, just the rules.

She has a rebellious spirit, and, and teaches you to be suspicious of anybody who's in authority or any rules. And then D, she tries to make you feel really special, and it's very tempting because we enjoy feeling special but you have that specialness from the Lord always and if in the Lord's providence, he gives you a wife.

You, you have that specialness with your wife and you don't want to have wasted any of the enjoyment of that specialness on someone who was not your wife. And then of course, my daughters, I think you could probably anticipate the lesson for you. Don't be that woman resist, the desire to make a display of yourself and to draw attention resist, the desire to be in large social situations where you will get to draw the notice of many different people.

Resist that rebellion in your own heart that suspects that the rules are designed to keep you from enjoying the sweet stuff and resists trying to have that specialness. A boy can also make a girl feel very special by telling her that she's the only one and pulling away to spend exclusive alone time with her and those kinds of things.

But you have that specialness from the Lord already, you want to enjoy secret time away. Go have secret worship and and look forward to the day when you may have a husband in that, in that parable of our relationship with the Lord that God has given us in marriage.

But not only should you be that kind of girl you should encourage other girls to be that kind of girl.

You should especially recognize older women, I reference Titus 2 amend ago. And there are older women who have finished bringing up their children. And yet they are not always making display of themselves, always out doing social things, they're still godly in the home, giving them themselves to prayer, and, and acts of service have them as the ones to, in the fellowship of the church.

And in the few good friends that you choose in life, to be the ones that you would have. And of course, especially you one another in the house and your mom in the house and let us remember that. The reason that this is true of foolish girls, is that this is true of Folly falling itself.

Appeals to us this way, fleshliness itself, looks exciting. Looks popular promises more enjoyment but it's all a lie. Look at verse 18, but he does not know that the dead are there that her guests are in the depths of hell. And so the picture overall is she's sitting in the door saying come in and come in.

We're having a party or come in and we'll just be together. Just you and I together eating that pleasant bread that has been, and that stolen water. And he says, okay. And he goes to walk in, and he takes one step, and there's no floor in the living room.

But a whole that goes all the way down to hell. And as soon as he steps in down into the fire, he does not know that the dead are there that her guests are in the depths of hell, Watch out for folly and watch out for foolish women and don't be foolish women.

That's fine. Lord, we thank you for the way wisdom, appeals to us the way your word appeals to us, the way your son appeals to us, know your spirit appeals to us. Oh God grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, giving our hearts spirit to life that the pleadings and allurings and enticements of wisdom would have much sway with us.

And that we might have the wisdom to reject all of the siren songs of Folly that try to bring us to our death. And to our doom, pray, that you would help my sons to be wise and to understand from the Bible, the kind of character and the kind of woman that would make a good wife.

So that when they have been discipled and are young men that they would have a good judgment about him to choose garden them from the practices, that that lead into folly help my daughters. I pray that that they too would resist being foolish. I pray Lord that everyone of us in this family would so enjoy our our secret time with you, those moments of just reading your word, we and you and speaking to you in prayer and lifting our hearts up to you in song, then that we would not be enticed by unwise and even sinful secret time with others.

And I do, pray, that you'd give each of my children, a good spouse and that they might have that time with their spouse. That is enjoyable, just because it was with them, that reflects what they have with you. But oh Lord, give them the real thing with you. The main thing of which the other is a copy with you first, I pray that they might be able to rejoice in the Lord always and then not find its sweet to be in secret with anyone in appropriately.

Will help us our God to be wise, thank you for making Christ our wisdom. Thank you. That his righteousness is what has counted for us. Thank you, that his sacrifices put away, all of our sinning against, even this portion of your word. And so just through him that we ask these things, amen.