



# FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

**Proverbs**  
**The Proverbs of Solomon**  
**Chapters 9-21**  
**05/10/2023**



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## **Introduction:**

Solomon does not mind insulting his readers, or at least the reader who is foolish. In chapter 11, the beautiful woman without discretion is like a pig that has a gold ring in its snout. It doesn't fit, and it devalues the ring as if it is worth nothing.

Now, in chapter 12, he will make sure that we understand that wicked behavior is stupid behavior.

In verses 1-3, we see the contrast between the wise and the wicked, the wise has knowledge, the wicked is stupid.

In verses 4-11, he will give us 8 proverbs on the blessings and the banes of domestic life. Marry a bad woman, you are stupid; marry a good woman, you are wise, and she is a crown to your head.

Verses 12-22 offer Solomon's readers, the virtues and faults within civil relationships. Depriving someone of what they have worked for and earned is wicked, and it is stupid.

And in the last part, verses 23-28, we will find that being lazy is stupid, it leads to anxiety, trust in the wrong person, and a general sense of being lost.

We will look at the second section tonight, specifically about men.

**Message:****1. The Way a Man Thinks:**

Proverbs 12:5 (ESV): *5 The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.*

**2. The Way a Man Acts:**

Proverbs 12:6 (ESV): *6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them.*

This is deliberate malice on the part of the wicked. No forgiveness for past wrongs, always looking for the opportunity to remind someone of past mistakes or bad decisions. This is insidious bitterness that corrupts the heart.

In his concluding remarks from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said; Luke 6:43–45 (ESV): *43 “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”*

There is a principle taught throughout scripture: “the condition of one’s heart is revealed by the words one speaks.” We can say with confidence that whatever someone is saying usually leads to actions that can be harmful or beneficial.

Our former president is faced with personal attack, lawsuits, and criminal conviction, if found guilty; and it doesn’t matter that most, if not all, is based on an attempt of political enemies who want to destroy his possible election in 2024. All of this is because of the words of his mouth. What he has said in the past convicts him before he ever faces a trial or a jury. Our words can do so much harm or great good, and we should be careful of the things we say and the things we do.

Solomon is sharing these truths with his son to remind Rehoboam that his family life will impact society. Unfortunately, Solomon did not heed his own advice.

Men, our words and actions will affect the women and the children in our lives. How we speak and how we act so often changes the trajectory of a life. Think of a wife who has lived with verbal abuse. If that goes on long enough, it tends to lead to physical abuse; and if that continues, eventually death. There is a progression downward until an ultimate choice is made.

What do we do when we, as men sit by passively allowing all the things we see happening, without saying or doing anything.

Today our world is dominated by weak, woke, neutered, effeminate men who take and take and take the insults, the abuse of society, and because of fear – fear of losing a job, fear of losing a child, fear of losing a spouse – weak men sit by and allow the evil that we see grow and grow, and nothing is ever said, unless it is in private.

This world wants strong men, but it also wants those strong men to be wise. Jesus told his disciples, “*Be as subtle as a serpent and harmless as dove.*” Meaning be strong; but be wise and gentle in your strength.

In the same sermon that we quoted earlier in this message, Jesus talks about the meek inheriting the earth.

Matthew 5:5 (ESV): 5 “*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*” That word – meek, is the Greek word *praeis* and it means gentled. Like a horse that has been trained for battle, it knows how to fight, is unafraid of the battle, but is restrained by the bit of the one who is in control.

Meek is very different than weak!

Jordan Peterson speaking about men recently said, “*what you should be is a monster, . . . society today is telling you to sheath your competitive edge, put away you aggressive instinct, but I say NO, you should be a monster, and then learn how to control it.*”

Jesus taught that 2,000 years ago and Solomon is telling his son the same thing in different words.

In verse 5, we see that Solomon begins with the thoughts of a man. A man who berates his wife, children, or those around him creates a negative atmosphere of anger, hurt and division. But a man of righteous thoughts encourages, lifts up and builds a future that is bright and hopeful for the coming generation.

Actions are always influenced by thoughts and the words spoken. As I was told many years past, *“Sow a thought, reap an act, sow an act, reap a habit, sow a habit, reap a character, and sow a character and you reap your destiny.”*

Dealing with spiritual warfare and the struggle that so many of us have with our words and actions, Paul would encourage the church to bring their thoughts and attitudes under submission to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (ESV): *3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.*

The motif of war is used often of the church because we battle Satan, the world, and our own thinking. These are strongholds that constantly attack the saint of God and attempt to discourage, or destroy anyone who seeks to live for God.

These ungodly fortresses that affect our lives cannot be brought down by conventional weapons. It is only the one trained by the Word of God, and able to wield the Sword of the Spirit effectively who can stand against the strongholds of this world and pull them down.

Learn to be a monster with the Word of God, fearless in your stance as a Christian man. Be that with your family, be that with your job, be that with your church, be that in our society, because the world is desperately in need of godly, strong men, who live what they believe, are strong enough to stand for what they believe, and refuse to back down in the face of controversy.

The Bible teaches that there is this progression from the heart to the thoughts to the words, and finally to the actions of one's life.

A man's actions are seeded in his thinking, controlled by his heart, proclaimed in his speaking, and acted upon in his obedience, or disobedience to God's command.

This passage of Solomon reminds us how bloody our words can actually become. Listen to what he says later in Proverbs.

Proverbs 18:21 (ESV): *21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

James the brother of the Lord shared with the church something similar.



James 3:5–10 (ESV): 5 *So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!* 6 *And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. . .* 8 *but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.* 9 *With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.* 10 *From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.*

The tongue acts according to the condition of the heart, and from there, the man acts according to the words he speaks and that which he tells himself.

How many wives have been beaten down because of a man's tongue? How many daughters have chosen poorly the husband she now lives with because of a man's words? How many sons do not know how to act properly with women or children because of the actions of a man's tongue – the devastating, bloody tongue that can do more damage, destroy more lives than any sword, bullet, or missile. We need sons being raised to be monsters of strength and love, aggression and control, power and humility.

Here is some good advice from one of David's Psalms, Psalm 39:1 (ESV): 1 *I said, "I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence."*

**Conclusion:**

Next week we will look at

**3. The Way a Man Goes:**

Proverbs 12:7 (ESV): *7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.*

This is destiny!