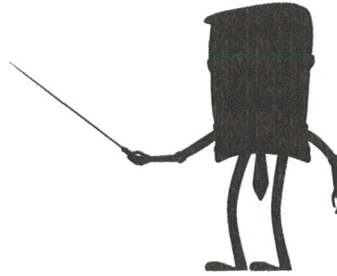


Proverbs 6



Warnings Against Folly

Proverbs 6 warns against foolish behavior, including becoming a surety for someone, laziness, and engaging in wicked actions, while also emphasizing the importance of heeding parental guidance and avoiding adultery.

The chapter begins by warning against becoming a **surety** for a friend or stranger, as this can lead to being “snared by the words of your mouth”.

Surety a person who takes responsibility for another’s performance of an undertaking, for example their appearing in court or the payment of a debt.

It advises to “free yourself” by pleading with your neighbor and giving no sleep to your eyes until you are free.

It uses the imagery of a gazelle escaping a hunter or a bird from a fowler to illustrate the urgency of the situation.

The Ant and the Sluggard (Verses 6-11)

The proverb urges the reader to “go to the ant, you sluggard, consider her ways and the wise”.

It highlights the ant’s industriousness, gathering food in the summer for the harvest, even though it has no leader or overseer.

It contrasts this with the sluggard’s laziness, warning that a little sleep and slumber will lead to poverty and want.

The Scoundrel (Verses 12-15)

The chapter describes a “naughty person, a wicked man” who walks with a “forward mouth,” winks with his eyes, and shuffles his feet.

It emphasizes that such a person has “perversity in his heart” and devises mischief continually, sowing discord.

The passage warns that the calamity of such a person will come suddenly and without remedy.

What the Lord Hates (verses 16-19)

The chapter lists six things that the Lord hates, and seven that are an abomination to him. These include:

- 1. Haughty eyes**
- 2. Lying tongue**
- 3. Hands that shed innocent blood**
- 4. A heart that devises wicked plans**
- 5. Feet that are quick to run to evil**
- 6. A false witness who breathes out lies**
- 7. A person who stirs up discord among brothers**

Parental Counsel (vv. 20-23):

The chapter reiterates the importance of heeding parental commands and not forsaking your mother’s teaching.

It emphasizes that these teachings will guide and protect you when you walk and when you sleep.

Warning Against Adultery (vv. 24-35)

The chapter warns against the dangers of adultery, comparing it to a man raking fire to his chest or walking on hot coals.

It emphasizes that adultery is a sin that brings ruin and dishonor, and that a husband will not spare in the day of vengeance.

It also warns against the folly of a thief, who, if caught, must restore sevenfold and give up all the substance of his house.

Proverbs 6 offers practical wisdom, cautioning against rash suretyship, laziness, and wickedness, while highlighting the importance of diligence, honesty, and fidelity in leading a righteous life, and the seven things that God hates.

Proverb 6:5

Solomon tells his son in this verse to free himself from the trap he fell into by “putting up security” for an unreliable person. In Bible times, a person in default of payment might become the creditor’s slave and lose everything he had. Even his family members might be taken as slaves by the creditor.

Lesson of the Ant- a creature who works diligently and is therefore able to endure harder times. The ant knows that there is a time when gathering won’t be possible-so he works hard when he can.

Pointing to the ant as an example of wisdom for its hard work, Solomon says it doesn’t have any chief officer or ruler. The ant doesn’t have to be commanded to work, it does so of its own accord. A worker ant is so industrious that it can carry twenty times its body weight in food back to its colony.

Proverbs 6:4 is a reminder that when we realize we’ve made a poor decision, especially regarding financial commitments, we need to act quickly to resolve it. This imagery to illustrate a vital principle: industry today safeguards one’s future well-being; neglect and idleness, conversely, lead to poverty and ruin. This theme of diligence applies not only to daily life but also to spiritual matters, as spiritual neglect can similarly result in dire consequences.

Proverbs 6:2 says, “You are snared with the words of your mouth” snared means to be trapped. Your words can trip you, what you say can cause you to stumble, and it can keep you from your potential. Don’t set the limits for your life with your words.

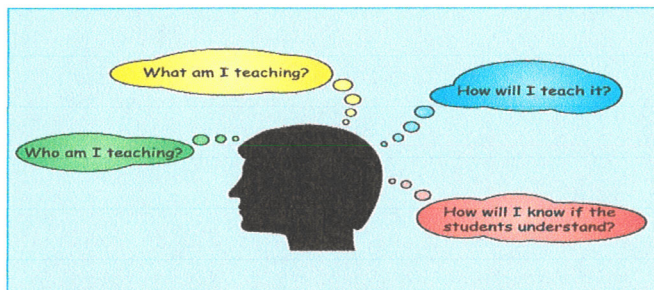
From a biblical perspective, ants can symbolize hard work and wisdom, reflecting lessons from Proverbs about the virtues of being industrious and prepared.

Proverbs is all about how to live in a way that honors God and others. Through the book of Proverbs, these human words about wisdom have become God's word and wisdom to his people. This connects to another key theme in chapters 1—9, the words of Lady Wisdom.

The soul of the lazy man desires and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Proverbs 26:13-16 condemns laziness, which often leads to procrastination, hindering productivity and diligence—qualities valued in a follower of Jesus Christ.

Knowledge



Knowledge- facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.

Awareness of familiarity is gained by experience of a fact or situation.

What is known in a particular field or in total, facts and information.

Philosophy true, justified belief, certain understanding, as opposed to opinion.

Awareness or familiarity gained by experience of a fact or situation.

Knowledge, at the core, is the understanding awareness, or familiarity gained through experience, education, or learning. It encompasses facts, information, and skills acquired over time and enables individuals to understand concepts, solve problems, and make informed decisions.

Familiarity and Understanding: Knowledge involves a sense of being familiar with or understanding something, whether it's a fact, a concept, or a skill.

Acquired Through experience and Learning: Knowledge is not innate; it is gained through various means, including direct experience, formal education, or self-directed learning.

Encompasses Facts, Information, and Skills: Knowledge includes not only information but also the ability to apply that information and the skills acquired through learning.

Enables Understanding and Decision-Making: Having knowledge allows individuals to comprehend complex ideas, solve problems, and make informed choices based on their understanding of the world.

Knowledge and Wisdom

Philosophers often define knowledge as “justified true belief” meaning that a belief must be both true and have a good reason to be believed.

While both knowledge and wisdom involve understanding, the key difference is that knowledge is the accumulation of facts and information, while wisdom is the ability to apply that knowledge with good judgment, insight, and experience.

Knowledge:

Refers to familiarity, awareness, or understanding of facts, skills, or objects.

It can be acquired through various means like education, research, experience, and observation.

It is the foundation upon which wisdom is built.

Wisdom:

Involves the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding common sense, and insight.

It is associated with attributes like unbiased judgment, compassion, and self-transcendence.

It is often seen as the application of knowledge in practical, meaningful ways.

In simpler terms:

Knowledge is knowing what something is.

Wisdom is knowing why something is and how to use that knowledge effectively.

Example:

Knowledge: Knowing that tomatoes are botanical a fruit.

Wisdom: Knowing that a tomato doesn't belong in a fruit salad.



Warning Against the Adulterous Woman

Proverbs 7

“My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.”

Proverbs 7 is a warning against the dangers of adultery and immorality. Using the metaphor of a young man falling into the trap of an adulterous woman, emphasizing the importance of wisdom and obedience to God's commands.

The Father's Warning: The chapter begins with a father urging his son to “keep my words” and “treasure my commands”.

Wisdom as a Guide: The father emphasizes the importance of seeking wisdom and understanding calling them “my sister” and “friend”.

The Temptress: The chapter then describes a woman, often referred to as an adulterous woman, who is described as seductive and dangerous.

The Young Man's Fall: A young man, lacking understanding, is drawn to the woman's ways and succumbs to her temptations.

Two women? Similar religious backgrounds and home lives. But the influences on which each opened their hearts and minds were quite different. So was the fruit of character that grew out of their lives.

The distinction between these two women isn't just a metaphor. Radically disparate views about femininity and sexuality are a problem that affect the lives of women even today.