



The Week of August 15, 2021
Boy, Do I Look Foolish!
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **About Humanity:** (John 3:16) I believe all people are fallen in sin, but loved by God who has taken the initiative to save humanity from its sinfulness.
- **Identity:** (John 1:12) I have worth and value because I am made in God's image and am His child. As His child, I live my life to bring glory to God and to serve His purposes.
- **I am engaged in the church:** (Acts 2:46-47) I consistently connect with my church body for fellowship and community while using my spiritual gifts for ministry and encouragement.

Intro Questions

- Share a time that you posted something or shared something on social media that you later regretted.
- Can you share something in your profession that was once considered wisdom that we now see as foolish.
- Name a movie, TV, or book character that you find foolish. What traits make them foolish?
- Name a foolish character from the Bible.

Read the entirety of today's passage out loud.

Proverbs 18:1-9

*One who isolates himself pursues selfish desires;
he rebels against all sound wisdom.*

*A fool does not delight in understanding,
but only wants to show off his opinions.*

*When a wicked person comes, contempt also comes,
and along with dishonor, derision.*

*The words of a person's mouth are deep waters,
a flowing river, a fountain of wisdom.*

*It is not good to show partiality to the guilty,
denying an innocent person justice.*

*A fool's lips lead to strife,
and his mouth provokes a beating.*

*A fool's mouth is his devastation,
and his lips are a trap for his life.*

*A gossip's words are like choice food
that goes down to one's innermost being.*

*The one who is lazy in his work
is brother to a vandal.*

The Counsel That We Keep

Read Proverbs 18:1-3

*One who isolates himself pursues selfish desires;
he rebels against all sound wisdom.*

*A fool does not delight in understanding,
but only wants to show off his opinions.*

*When a wicked person comes, contempt also comes,
and along with dishonor, derision.*

- Why is isolation dangerous?
 - Is isolation only physical condition or can it be ideological also?
 - What does ideological isolation look like? How do we prevent it?
 - What are the dangers of ideological isolation or being in an echo chamber?
 - *Interesting Fact: The word idiot comes from the Greek word idios, meaning "one's own."*
- What does a fool delight in?
- What is a fool's motivation when they converse with others?
- What are the consequences of being foolish?

- Why does Solomon jump from discussing the foolish person to the wicked person? Are they one and the same?

Read Proverbs 11:14

*Without guidance, a people will fall,
but with many counselors there is deliverance.*

- Why is wise counsel so important?
- How do we find wise counsel?

Read Psalms 1:1-6

*How happy is the one who does not
walk in the advice of the wicked
or stand in the pathway with sinners
or sit in the company of mockers!
Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction,
and he meditates on it day and night.
He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams
that bears its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.*

*The wicked are not like this;
instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*

*For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.*

- Read this Psalm and replace "wicked" with "foolish."
- What does the wise man concern himself with? What does he avoid?
- What does the wicked/foolish man concern himself with? What does he avoid?
- How does the Lord respond to the righteous? How does He respond to the fool?

Read James 1:19

*My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak,
and slow to anger...*

- What are some practical ways we can be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger?"
- Share a time that being quick to speak and slow to listen caused you trouble.
- Would your family, friends, say you are a good listener? Why or why not?

The Words That We Speak

Read Proverbs 18:4-8

*The words of a person's mouth are deep waters,
a flowing river, a fountain of wisdom.*

*It is not good to show partiality to the guilty,
denying an innocent person justice.*

*A fool's lips lead to strife,
and his mouth provokes a beating.*

*A fool's mouth is his devastation,
and his lips are a trap for his life.*

*A gossip's words are like choice food
that goes down to one's innermost being.*

"Because a fool is enamored with their own words, they don't realize the impact of what they're saying. They don't see just how far off track they really are because they don't know wisdom when they hear it." –Pastor David

- Give an example of a public figure that you've seen embody this foolishness?
- Make a list of the impacts words have according to Proverbs 18:4-8.
- How easy is it to fall into the trap of gossip? How can we protect ourselves (and others) from the dangers of gossip?

Read Matthew 15:11, 18-19

"It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth – this defiles a person.... But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander."

Read James 3:7-10

Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind, but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way.

- In light of these passages, are there habits that you need to change in your conversations or social media interactions?

The Work That They Complete

Read Proverbs 18:9

*The one who is lazy in his work
is brother to a vandal.*

Read Proverbs 14:23-24

*There is profit in all hard work,
but endless talk leads only to poverty.*

*The crown of the wise is their wealth,
but the foolishness of fools produces foolishness.*

Read Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

- Is a strong work ethic biblical?
- Is a person lazy because they are foolish or foolish because they are lazy?
- Who is our true boss?

Read Acts 20:33-35

"I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that I worked with my own hands to support myself and those who are with me. In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- What motivations for hard work does Paul give?
- What should we do with the abundance from our hard work?

2 Thessalonians 3:10-13

In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat." For we hear that there are some among you who are idle. They are not busy but busybodies. Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves. But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing good.

- What is one of the dangers of laziness that Paul points out here that we discussed earlier?

Next Steps

- Is there someone you need to apologize to for how you've spoken to them?
- Do you often make decisions that focus on yourself and disregard the interests of others?
- Are you open to, and even desirous of, the counsel of others?
- Are you a loner? Can you identify a circle of good and faithful friends?
- Are you more of a listener or a talker?
- Do you feel like you always have to win an argument?

- Do you see destructive results from such conversations?
- Would you characterize your speech as a flowing river of wisdom? If yes, why? If no, why?
- Do you cozy up to those who can further your agenda whether or not they walk with Christ? If yes, is this really wise?
- Can you think of times when your mouth has gotten you into trouble?
- What are your attitude and actions concerning gossip? Try to answer honestly.
- Evaluate your work ethic. Do you do your work as unto the Lord, knowing that it is Christ you serve?

Enjoying Conversation Guides? Want to be a part?

Come join the Writer's Team, Wednesday Nights at 7:45pm in Room 4.

Email Pastor Doug Bedgood if you'd like more info, dbedgood@icelebration.org.