



FOOLPROOF: Foolish Things

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Mount Paran North

¹Honor is no more associated with fools than snow with summer or rain with harvest. ²Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse will not land on its intended victim. ³Guide a horse with a whip, a donkey with a bridle, and a fool with a rod to his back!

Proverbs 26:1-3 NLT

Foolish Trust

⁴Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.

⁵Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes. ⁶Sending a message by the hands of a fool is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison.

⁷Like the useless legs of one who is lame is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

⁸Like tying a stone in a sling is the giving of honor to a fool. ⁹Like a thornbush in a drunkard's hand is a proverb in the mouth of a fool. ¹⁰Like an archer who wounds at random is one who hires a fool or any passer-by. ¹¹As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly. ¹²Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them.

Proverbs 26:4-12 NIV

Foolish Behavior

¹³The lazy person claims, "There's a lion on the road! Yes, I'm sure there's a lion out there!"

¹⁴As a door swings back and forth on its hinges, so the lazy person turns over in bed. ¹⁵Lazy people take food in their hand but don't even lift it to their mouth. ¹⁶Lazy people consider themselves smarter than seven wise counselors.

Proverbs 26:13-16 NLT

Foolish Motives

- Anger

Interfering in someone else's argument is as foolish as yanking a dog's ears.

Proverbs 26:17 NLT

A quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood.

Proverbs 26:21 NLT

- Cowardice

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Someone who tricks someone else and then claims that he was only joking is like a crazy person playing with a deadly weapon.

Proverbs 26:18-19 GNT

- Insecurity

Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.

Proverbs 26:20 NLT

Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one's heart.

Proverbs 26:22 NLT

- Hatred

²³ Pretty words may hide a wicked heart, just as a pretty glaze covers a common clay pot. ²⁴

²⁶ A man with hate in his heart may sound pleasant enough, but don't believe him; for he is cursing you in his heart. Though he pretends to be so kind, his hatred will finally come to light for all to see. ²⁷ The man who sets a trap for others will get caught in it himself. Roll a boulder down on someone, and it will roll back and crush you. ²⁸ Flattery is a form of hatred and wounds cruelly.

Proverbs 26:23-28 TLB