

POWER HOUR

9/27/2026

Lesson Text:
Proverbs 14:1-19

Related Scriptures:
Proverbs 9:1-18; 15:1-33; 26:1-12;
Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:19-27

“THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMS
RIGHT”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the godly will flourish. Proverbs 14:11 NLT

Time: between 971 and 931 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

Proverbs 14:1-19 NLT

¹ A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands. ² Those who follow the right path fear the Lord; those who take the wrong path despise him. ³ A fool's proud talk becomes a rod that beats him, but the words of the wise keep them safe. ⁴ Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest. ⁵ An honest witness does not lie; a false witness breathes lies. ⁶ A mocker seeks wisdom and never finds it, but knowledge comes easily to those with understanding. ⁷ Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge on their lips. ⁸ The prudent understand where they are going, but fools deceive themselves. ⁹ Fools make fun of guilt, but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation. ¹⁰ Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can fully share its joy. ¹¹ The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the godly will flourish. ¹² There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. ¹³ Laughter can conceal a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief remains. ¹⁴ Backsliders get what they deserve; good people receive their reward. ¹⁵ Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps. ¹⁶ The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with reckless confidence. ¹⁷ Short-tempered people do foolish things, and schemers are hated. ¹⁸ Simpletons are

clothed with foolishness, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. ¹⁹ Evil people will bow before good people; the wicked will bow at the gates of the godly.

INTRODUCTION

Imagine standing at a crossroads, where two paths diverge. One path is well-worn, lined with vibrant flowers and lush greenery, promising a journey filled with beauty and abundance. The other path is overgrown with thorns and hidden by shadow, hinting at a treacherous journey fraught with obstacles and uncertainty. This imagery captures the essence of Proverbs 14:19, where the paths of wisdom and folly are contrasted.

The proverbs within these verses use vivid imagery and contrasts, touching on themes such as the power of wisdom, the value of honest labor, and the significance of truthfulness. God's wise way leads to blessings, while folly naturally leads to calamity.

The wicked foolishly despise the Lord (vs. 2); and even if the wicked temporarily seem to flourish (vs. 11), their wicked ways will lead to their destruction.

Additional Scripture Readings

Folly Calls. Proverbs 9:13-18.

Dealing With a Fool. Proverbs 26:1-12.

The Way of the Fool. Proverbs 15:1-12.

Instruction of The Lord's Wisdom. Proverbs 15:18-33.

Hear and Obey. Matthew 7:24-27.

Be Doers of the Word. James 1:19-27.

Wisdom and Folly. Proverbs 14:1-9.

1. Invest in a good foundation (Proverbs 14:1-4). The fool either neglects or tears down moral foundations, whereas the wise build upon biblical truth and encourage others (vs. 1). The wise intentionally build their moral character on godly wisdom. This is a strong foundation that rests on the reverent fear of the Lord. This spiritual house builds on Christ and His Word and can withstand life's storms (Matthew 7:24-27). The wise walk in uprightness, which positively affects how they

treat others. It is not so for fools, who despise God's way and His Word (Proverbs 14:2-3). Verse 4 uses a business analogy: a clean trough means the absence of oxen and their strength, a vital commodity in an agricultural society. An empty stall meant no crops.

2. Influence of a faithful witness (Proverbs 14:5-7). Integrity is essential for flourishing relationships that build on honesty, trust, and commitment. Consistent godly behaviors strengthen such relationships over time. They are a faithful witness to Christ. Fools embrace falsehoods (vs. 5). They misuse words, speak harshly, and stir up negative emotions such as anger and distrust (15:1). Lacking the foundation of truth, their search for knowledge is empty as they scoff at God's wisdom (14:6). Proverbs cautions us to avoid the presence of foolish people in their destructive pursuits (vs. 7). The influences surrounding us either encourage godliness or corrupt our thinking. Listen carefully and wisely, or you may be deceived.

3. Insight into actions (Proverbs 14:8-12). A person with a flourishing life does not act out emotions blindly; he or she pauses, listens, and wisely chooses godly words and actions. If we understand our weaknesses and proclivities, we should consider the consequences before we speak or act. Self-deceived, spiritually blind, and headstrong in their opinions, fools scoff at truth and mock those who embrace godly wisdom (vss. 9-11). Their misguided views lead them down a destructive path they think is right but leads to death (vs. 12). This is a sobering warning for us to examine our ways!

4. Impulses of the heart influence the issues of life (Proverbs 14:13-19). The wise person considers matters of the heart. Man lives out of the abundance of the heart, so the wise carefully guard it (Proverbs 4:23). The wise probe feeling well-beneath surface-level (vs. 13). They cautiously evaluate what is before them and wisely turn from evil (vss. 14-15). In contrast, fools never consider wisdom. They act impulsively, recklessly destroying trust and morale (vss. 16-17). Those thriving in the knowledge of the Lord leave a mark that eternity alone will reveal. Even if we do not always see it now, the way of the wise leads to true and lasting blessing.

PRACTICAL POINTS

Folly is destructive. Seek wisdom (Prov. 14:1).

Cultivate a healthy fear of the Lord (vs. 2).

Folly has negative consequences, so seek wisdom (vss. 3-4)!

Evaluate your speech to see whether you are wise (vss. 5-7).

We should seek wisdom, which brings great blessings (vss. 8-14)!

We cannot truly know the hearts of those around us (vss. 10, 13).

We should give thought to our ways, rather than act recklessly (vss. 15-17).

Folly leads to disgrace, but wisdom leads to blessing in this life and the next (vss. 18-19).

CONCLUSION

The Bible uses the concept of a “way” to describe the course of life a person chooses. Matthew 7:13-14 references a broad way and a narrow way. The broad way is the way of the foolish person, and it leads to destruction. The narrow way is the way of the wise person, and it leads to life. When we look at the way of the fool. This way seems right to him at the time but has disastrous consequences later.

Next week, we will turn our attention to the way of the wise and note the superiority of wisdom ***Ecclesiastes 9:11-18 ‘Wisdom Over Strength’***.

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