

VIOLENT PEOPLE

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986 (Rev. 96)

Lesson #9

Proverbs 1:10-19

Introduction: The book of Proverbs begins with a father (Solomon) giving wisdom to his son. Solomon's heart goes out to protecting his children. Solomon warns his son to avoid violent people.

1. THE RUINED MORALS OF VIOLENT PEOPLE (What kind of people are violent?)

There are at least four descriptions of violent people which reveal their morals.

- A. Proverbs 1:10 = sinners (Hebrew "hattarm") a habitual sinner subject to punishment
- B. Proverbs 1:11,16 = murders
- C. Proverbs 1:13 = thieves
- D. Proverbs 1:19 = greedy, the ones who take, or ill gotten gain

How does this relate to Matthew 15:19?

These things comes from a heart that is unregenerate.

2. THE ROUTINE WAYS OF VIOLENT PEOPLE (How do violent people live?)

There are at least eight activities of violent people that reveal a "heart" problem.

- A. Proverbs 1:11 = they look for opportunities (ambush, lay in wait)
- B. Proverbs 1:11 = they prey upon the innocent (shameless)
- C. Proverbs 1:11 = they are seductive (lurk privately)
- D. Proverbs 1:12 = they force or over power people (swallow up)
- E. Proverbs 1:13 = they look for profits (wealth, find all precious substance)
- F. Proverbs 1:14 = they run with wicked people (among us)
- G. Proverbs 1:16 = they run to do evil
- H. Proverbs 1:19 = they take away life and possessions from others

"The appeal of the wicked, so attractive initially, is presented in its full scope. A foolish person is dazzled by the prospects of acquiring wealth easily and being gratified quickly by the immediate, but a wise person views the consequence of such sin and folly."

(Proverbs, by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 908)

3. THE RECRUITING PRACTICES OF VIOLENT PEOPLE (What lures do they use?)

There are at least three lures violent people use to recruit others.

- A. Proverbs 1:10 = they "entice" (look for simple or naive people)
- B. Proverbs 1:11 = they "invite" (come with us)

C. Proverbs 1:13 = they tempt

D. Proverbs 1:14 = they have the group (gang) mentality (cast with us)

What does this tell us about our relationships with other people?

People buckle under “peer pressure.”

"The pressure of peers can be strong, especially on young people. Therefore they need to avoid the invitations by the wrong kind of people who invite them to take part in murder and theft. To give in to such influence is a downward step."

(Proverbs, by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 908)

4. THE RISKS TAKEN BY VIOLENT PEOPLE (What hazards do violent people face?)

Violent people take many risks but there are at least two Solomon mentions.

A. Proverbs 1:17 = they are involved in activity that is “in vain.”

"There are two ways to interpret verse 17 within the context. One is to see a comparison with the folly of birds who fall into a snare even though forewarned -- likewise the wicked fall into the snare God lays because they are driven by lust. The other is to see a contrast between the natural behavior of birds when forewarned and the irrational greed of robbers. In other words, it is futile to spread out a net for birds that are watching, but these men are so blinded by evil that they fail to recognize the trap."

(Proverbs, by Allen P. Ross, in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 909)

B. Proverbs 1:18 = they put their own lives in jeopardy

"The humor of this boomeranging result is evident, that ill gotten gain cannot be enjoyed. Thieves steal money but then it takes their lives! In other words crime does not pay."

(Proverbs, by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 909)

5. THE RESISTANCE OF VIOLENT PEOPLE (How can a wise individual resist them?)

Solomon gives at least three ways wise people can resist violent people.

A. Proverbs 1:10 = “consent not” do not give into them

B. Proverbs 1:15 = “walk not” do not go with them

C. Proverbs 1:15 = “refrain from” do not follow them

How important is it for young people to have a game plan against sin?

How important is it to be teaching "the application of wisdom" all through a child's life?

Conclusion: Is life more violent today than in the days of Solomon?

Is the wisdom of Proverbs outdated in dealing with sin and sinners?