### Proverbs

## Chapter 17

1A scrap of food that’s eaten in peace  
 Is better than a house of feasting with fights.  
  
2Over foolish masters, a smart slave will win,  
 And he’ll divide what he takes with his brothers.  
  
3As silver and gold are refined in a furnace,  
 Is how Jehovah tries hearts.  
  
4A bad man obeys what lawbreakers say,  
 And the unrighteous will heed lying lips.  
  
5Those who make fun of the poor  
 Provoke the One by whom they were made.  
  
Those who rejoice at the downfall of others  
 Won’t [find their sins overlooked];  
 For, mercy comes to those who show that they care.  
  
6The crown of old age is grandchildren,  
 And fathers will boast of their sons.  
  
The arrangements of [God] can be trusted;  
 But the faithless won’t know how [He] did it.  
  
7Trustworthy lips aren’t enough for a fool,  
 Nor will lying lips pleasure the righteous.  
  
8Instruction pays well to those who’ll learn,  
 And all who use it, will prosper.  
  
9Those covering offenses are looking for love;  
 But the unforgiving leave family and friends.  
  
10Intimidation breaks the heart of someone who’s wise;  
 But a fool who’s whipped never learns.  
  
11All evil men like to argue;  
 But against them, Jehovah sends merciless angels.  
  
12An intelligent man will be anxious [for right];  
 But, about evil things, fools will argue.  
  
13The one who repays good things with bad,  
 Will never see evil removed from his home.  
  
14When a ruler supports righteous words,  
 There are fewer fights and divisions.  
  
15When the righteous must judge the unjust,  
 They’ll find them unclean and disgusting.  
  
16Value means nothing to fools;  
 For, in their hearts, there’s no wisdom.  
  
As those who are building tall houses  
 Make plans for something that will fall…  
 Evil plans bring the downfall of the crooked.  
  
17Use your time to gain friends;  
 For in bad days, they’ll be your brothers…  
 It’s for such favor that they’ve been born!  
  
18A foolish man claps and shakes hands,  
 Then he [co-signs] a loan for a friend.  
  
19Those fond of sinning bring strife,  
 And those with hard hearts bring nothing good.  
  
20A tongue that twists words will bring evil,  
 And the heart of a fool brings grief to himself.  
  
21A father won’t be proud of an ignorant son…  
 But, smart ones bring joy to their mothers.  
  
22While a joyful heart brings good health;  
 A worried heart dries a man’s bones.  
  
23The unrighteous want gifts to be dropped in their laps  
 So that they can pervert true justice.  
  
24Faces of the discerning look wise;  
 But the eyes of the foolish look distant.  
  
25A foolish son angers his father  
 And brings grief to the [mother] that bore him.  
  
26It’s wrong to penalize the righteous  
 And unholy to plot against a just king.  
  
27Those holding back harsh words show insight,  
 And a man who concedes shows his wisdom.  
  
28When an unthinking man asks a question,  
 He’s often thought of as wise;  
 And when he refuses to argue,  
 He’ll be thought of as a person who’s smarter.