### Proverbs

## Chapter 24

1Son,  
  
Never be jealous of evil men,  
 Or desire to go along with them.  
 2For their hearts just think about lies,  
 And misery is found in their lips.  
  
3Wisdom has built a house for himself,  
 And it was erected with skill.  
 4Its storerooms are filled with good sense…  
 Things of value, goodness, and wealth.  
  
5Gaining wisdom is better than gaining strength,  
 And being smart is better than owning much land.  
  
6Seek guidance before going to war;  
 For from the hearts of advisors, comes aid.  
  
7Wisdom and insight are good,  
 And they’re found in the gates of the wise.  
  
The wise won’t turn from the Laws of Jehovah,  
 8And they consider His things in their meetings.  
 Those who fail to learn this will die,  
 9Since the fool will fail because of his sins.  
  
With what’s dirty, don’t get involved;  
 10For when a day of trouble arrives,  
 You’ll see how such things have worked out.  
  
11Rescue those being led to their deaths,  
 And ransom those about to be slain!  
 12Don’t say that you never knew them,  
 For the Lord knows what’s in the hearts of all men,  
 Since He’s the One who put breath in them all.  
 So, He’s aware of all that we do,  
 And He pays us back for the [sins] we commit.  
  
13Son,  
  
To eat honey from the comb is delightful;  
 For into your throat, this brings sweetness…  
 14And that’s how wisdom should be in your life;  
 For, if you find it, your death will be good,  
 And your hopes won’t be abandoned.  
  
15Never lead the irreverent into the field  
 Of any man who’s righteous,  
 Or join with them in deception.  
 16For, even though the righteous may fall seven times,  
 They’ll also stand up again,  
 While the irreverent will be plagued for their badness.  
  
17Don’t rejoice if your enemy falls,  
 And after his fall, he can’t rise.  
 18For, Jehovah will see this and He will be displeased,  
 Then He will send His rage upon you.  
  
19And don’t rejoice over those doing evil,  
 Or ever be jealous of sinners!  
 20For the lives of the wicked will come to an end,  
 And the torch of the irreverent will be extinguished.  
  
21Fear God, O son, as well as the king…  
 Never resist their persuasion!  
 22For they both can bring sudden death  
 Upon those who show no respect.  
 So, who can know how they’ll punish?  
  
23I’m saying this to the wise and to you:  
 If you’re in awe of a person you’re judging,  
 That’s a poor way to start out a trial.  
 24For a man who declares the irreverent just  
 Will be cursed among all his people  
 And detested within every nation.  
 25But, those who reprove will look better,  
 And upon such one will come praise…  
 26Lips will kiss his righteous decisions.  
  
27Now, prepare to stop what you’re doing,  
 And let’s go out to work in your field…  
 Then, follow me, and we’ll work on your house!  
  
28Don’t ever be a witness that lies,  
 And don’t be too quick to open your lips.  
 29Don’t say, ‘I’ll do what he did to me…  
 I’ll get even with the one who’s wronged me!’  
  
30A foolish man is much like a farm,  
 And one lacking good sense, like a vineyard.  
 31For, if you just leave them alone,  
 They each will become overgrown…  
 Their stone walls will fail and fall down.  
  
32I once decided to change…  
 I planned to just [sit back] and learn.  
 33Then I started to doze and fell fast asleep  
 With my hands folded over my chest.  
 34And if you allow this to happen to you,  
 Poorness will soon overtake you,  
 And lack will pass you like a sprinter.