### Proverbs

## Chapter 26

1As snow in the summer and rain in the harvest;  
 It’s wrong for a fool to be honored.  
  
2As sparrows and other winged creatures  
 May spread [their wings, but not] fly;  
 An undeserved curse won’t happen.  
  
3Like a whip to a horse or a spur to a mule;  
 A nation of the lawless must be beaten.  
  
4Don’t answer a fool in his same foolish way  
 So you’re not thought of being just like him.  
 5Rather, reply to show how he’s foolish,  
 So he doesn’t think himself wise.  
  
6The man who sends a foolish report  
 Heaps scorn upon all his ways.  
  
7Remove from fools their reasons [to speak],  
 And take their proverbs out of their mouths.  
 8For, as a man who ties a stone to a sling,  
 Is the person who gives glory to a fool.  
  
9As thorns will grow in the hands of a drunk;  
 Slavery grows in the hands of a fool.  
  
10As a bad storm may cause damage;  
 The flesh of fools will meet with destruction  
 Over things in which they find pleasure.  
  
11As a dog returns to its vomit;  
 A fool will return to the evil he’s done  
 And commit same sins again.  
  
12I’ve seen men who thought themselves wise,  
 Yet, they were no better than fools.  
  
13When you send out the lazy, they’ll say:  
 ‘There are lions in the roads and murderers in the squares.’  
  
14The lazy one rolls in his bed  
 Like a door that’s swinging on hinges.  
  
15When the lazy one hides his hands in [his robe],  
 He’s unable to bring them up to his mouth.  
  
16The lazy one thinks himself wiser  
 When something he says appears to be true.  
  
17As one who grabs hold of the tail of a dog  
 Is the man who joins in a quarrel not his.  
  
18As doctors also need healing;  
 Those who give council will stumble.  
  
19When a man is caught stealing from friends,  
 He’ll claim that it was a joke.  
  
20Where there’s plenty of wood, a fire will grow;  
 But, when there’s no reason to disagree,  
 There’s also no reason to fight.  
  
21As a grate filled with coals or wood on a fire;  
 A man who shouts insults is seeking a fight.  
  
22The words of those who are bad may sound soft;  
 But they beat the insides of the bowels.  
  
23Silver that you get from treacherous deeds  
 Is the same as a fine pot that’s cracked.  
  
Comforting [words] will bring rest  
 To hearts that are deeply distressed.  
  
24An enemy who cries will always agree,  
 As he makes wicked plans in his heart.  
  
25When an enemy is calling to you,  
 Don’t pay him any attention;  
 For, there are 7 kinds of evil in his heart.  
  
26Treacherous are those who hide hatred;  
 But in a court, their sins are revealed.  
  
27The man who digs a pit for his neighbor  
 Will be the one who falls in it;  
 And the one who’s rolling a boulder  
 Will roll it back on himself.  
  
28A lying tongue hates the truth,  
 And an open mouth can bring problems.