



# Proverbs

Arts for the Kingdom

June 6, 2026

## A Character Sketch from Proverbs

compiled by Naomi Stamooolis

Naomi Stamooolis, Narrator  
Gail Heppner, Prudent  
Natalie Heppner, Fool

Wendy Golter, Wise  
Kaleb Stamooolis, Simple  
Joel Stamooolis, Scoffer

Naomi writes: One of my favorite ways to read Proverbs is to follow the characters who appear again and again, tracing the development of their defining characteristics. The prudent is a favorite character of mine, often contrasted with the simple or the fool, or even the scoffer. As I've read Proverbs through the years, collecting verses that define the prudent and the simple and others, I've come to visualize the characters of Proverbs on a number-line of wisdom. The wise and the prudent are moving in the positive direction, while the fool and the scoffer are pursuing the negative direction. The simple hangs out right at zero, and many proverbs are a warning and a plea for the simple to commit to the way of wisdom. I've arranged this collection of verses from Proverbs to highlight these characters and their position on the number-line of wisdom.

## Less Like Me

by Zach Williams, Hank Bentley, and Mia Fieldes

Pierce Thomas, lead vocals  
Brian Jenson, electric guitar  
Dennis DeWinter, bass

Joel Stamooolis, keyboard & vocals  
Phil Evans, acoustic guitar  
Greg Anderson, drums

Pierce writes: This song may sound more like it is about the fruit of the Spirit, but in the long run it takes that and aims it at self-control as one of its main goals. I'm sure this song may hit in different ways or subjects for many of us, but for me, Proverbs 23:29-32 and 25:16 remind me of how I used to be a blithering drunk in my overindulgence of alcohol, thinking I was doing just fine in my relationship with Christ. But one day, on

July 9, 2023, God touched me and woke me out of my drunken stupor and led me to a group that has helped me grow in both my self-control over my alcoholism and my relationship with Christ. I have been, for nearly 3 years now, on a long, trial-filled, and far-to-go path of strengthening my self-control to become a little more like Jesus...and a little less like me.

## **Walking Tune**

by **Percy Grainger**

Eric Shelton, flute

Naomi Stamoolis, oboe

Allison King, clarinet

Kaleb Stamoolis, bassoon

Herb Dunham, euphonium

Allison writes: In 1900, Percy Grainger, an Australian composer, visited Scotland and took a three-day walk in the Scottish Highlands. He whistled as he walked, coming up with a melody which later became "Walking Tune" in 1905. Proverbs frequently uses the metaphor of walking on the way, contrasting the way of foolishness and evil with the way of wisdom and righteousness. Proverbs warns not to "walk in the way of evil," but instead to walk in "the way of wisdom" (4:14, 4:11). In Proverbs, wisdom is attributed to the Lord: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints" (2:6-8). Walking in wisdom is tied to walking with God. "Walking Tune," like many of Grainger's works, is bright and cheerful. In recent years, I have been learning that God enjoys His people. God does not merely tolerate us. He delights in us, and He wants us to share in His joy by walking with Him, recognizing that He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

## **The False Prophet**

by **Cris Adams**

Cris Adams, reader

Humanity has always been tempted by the prediction of future events - next week, next year, the distant future - all of the above. Fortunetellers make a fortune off those desperate to gain insight into their personal future. We make bets against horse races, sports games, the stock market, cards on the table, our life. Our obsession with eschatology began the day of Christ's ascension. Armageddon frightens us, and the end of everything is everything we cannot understand. However, there are those who believe they can foretell the date of Christ's return, the final battle and the end of the world. Perhaps if we know WHEN it happens it will somehow quell our fears. As evidence of their hubris, here is a selection of those who prophesied what the Father has not shared, followed by a commentary from Proverbs on such foolishness.

## **Lilies and Sparrows**

by Jess Ray

Andrea Sandefur, tenor ukulele and vocals

There are quite a few cultural proverbs about birds and flowers: a bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush, kill two birds with one stone, earth laughs in flowers, every flower blooms in its own time. However, I've always loved what Jesus taught about birds and flowers, particularly when it related to our worry. In Matthew 6, Jesus encourages us to consider the care God extends to the birds of the air and flowers of the field. This song's chorus ends with a phrase that parallel's Jesus's point in verse 34. "Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself." I appreciate Jess Ray's simple arrangement of these verses, which I've been able to memorize and weave into my heart. May they sink deep, like a personal proverb from the Lord.

## **Nocturne No. 1 in A minor**

by Friedrich Burgmüller

Joel Stamoolis, cello

Dante Palau, guitar

Joel writes: The lullaby feel of this nocturne for cello and guitar by German composer Friedrich Burgmüller makes me think of Ecclesiastes 5:12, "Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much." This biblical proverb is echoed in the traditional Swedish proverb, "Work sweetens the sleep." The second half of Ecclesiastes 5:12 reminds us that the opposite is also true: "but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. This is echoed in a traditional Albanian proverb: "A day without work can yield a night without sleep." If you fall asleep during our performance, may your rest be sweet.

*Our next Arts for the Kingdom event is tentatively scheduled for  
Saturday, December 5, 2026 on the theme of Advent.*

