

## Proverbs 14

**Theme: The Path of Wisdom vs. The Way of Folly**

### I. The Foundation of Wisdom in Daily Life (vv. 1–4)

- **The wise build; the foolish destroy** (v.1)
- Words reveal the heart (vv.2–3)
- Productivity requires effort (v.4)  
“No oxen = clean stall, but no increase”  
\*Wisdom produces growth, even when it’s messy.

### II. Truth, Understanding, and Discernment (vv. 5–8)

- Faithful vs. false witnesses (v.5)
- The fool cannot find wisdom (v.6)
- Separate from foolish influence (v.7)
- Wisdom = understanding your path (v.8)  
\*Wisdom requires honesty and awareness.

### III. Sin, Mockery, and Inner Reality (vv. 9–14)

- Fools mock sin; the upright seek favor (v.9)
- The heart knows its own struggles (v.10)
- The wicked vs. the upright outcomes (v.11)
- **Warning:** “There is a way that seems right...” (v.12)
- Hidden sorrow behind outward joy (v.13)
- Backslider vs. righteous satisfaction (v.14)  
\*Appearances deceive; God sees the heart and the end.

### IV. The Simple vs. The Prudent (vv. 15–18)

- Gullibility vs. careful thinking (v.15)
- Fear of the Lord leads to caution (v.16)
- Quick temper leads to foolishness (v.17)

- The simple inherit folly; the prudent gain knowledge (v.18)  
\*Wisdom pauses and evaluates; folly reacts.

#### **V. Social Consequences of Character (vv. 19–24)**

- Evil eventually bows to good (v.19)
- The poor are often despised—but shouldn't be (v.20–21)
- Mercy and truth belong to the good (v.22)
- Hard work vs. empty talk (v.23)
- Wealth of the wise vs. folly of fools (v.24)  
\*Character shapes relationships and outcomes.

#### **VI. Life, Death, and the Fear of the Lord (vv. 25–27)**

- Truth-telling saves lives (v.25)
- Fear of the Lord = confidence and refuge (v.26)
- Fear of the Lord = fountain of life (v.27)  
\*Reverence for God leads to life and security.

#### **VII. Leadership, Emotions, and Wisdom (vv. 28–30)**

- A leader's strength is in people (v.28)
- Patience vs. anger (v.29)
- Peaceful heart vs. envy (v.30)  
\*Emotional control is a mark of wisdom.

#### **VIII. Justice, Kindness, and True Security (vv. 31–35)**

- Kindness to the poor honors God (v.31)
- The righteous have hope, even in death (v.32)
- Wisdom rests in the understanding heart (v.33)
- Righteousness exalts a nation (v.34)
- Wise servants gain favor (v.35)  
\*Righteousness brings lasting impact, personally and nationally.