

Thursday Evening Bible Class. A Fool Utters all his mind...

Proverbs 29:11

14th April 2022

A fool utters all his mind: but a wise man keeps it in till afterwards.

This is an interesting passage. First we may look at some examples of where fools just spout out what ever comes into their head without thinking of the consequences.

Haman

The first one that comes to mind is Haman the enemy of the Jews, at the time of the Persian empire:

Haman thought he had engineered the downfall and destruction of the Jewish people, within the Persian empire. He chuckled to himself, pleased with his intelligent manipulation of even the very king himself, the emperor of the huge empire. Congratulating himself he went home boasting, full of pride: ***A fool utters all his mind:***

Esther 5: 11 -14 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. His family – as foolish as him, it seems, encouraged him in his stupidity, suggesting he build a gallows to hand Mordecai on it, in the morning. Within a very short time, the boasts came to nothing, the bragging was in vain, and it was Haman's rotund corpse that was swinging from the gallow-tree.

This example, highlights the peacock syndrome, whereby someone has such a massive ego, that very often what comes out of their mouth is so toe-curlingly cringe-worthy, that it even makes people listening embarrassed! It seems in this day and age, there are many

Hamans. Avoid them if you can. They are very common in the business world unfortunately, but the good thing is, if a positive can be taken is that they are a very caricature of this verse we are looking at, and taken to an extreme, they soon come crashing down. One of these I knew, sadly, killed himself, when he realised what a fool he had been all his life.

Hezekiah

This is a different kind of fool. This is the kind of fool we can relate to. A generally good all-round type of person, who showed faith and commitment when it mattered, a great leader, courageous, and yes wise! When under stress, was focussed, prayed, and used the Word as his guide. Overnight, the danger passed, and time to relax! Ahh! Lovely. Time to spend on himself at last, a well-deserved rest. A letter through the post, oooh, from the king of Babylon no less! Hezekiah invited these worldly, Godless strangers into his home, and felt he could make friends with these people by showing them the achievements of the Jewish people, and their culture, that way, he would have a good alliance if the nasty Assyrians invaded again.

*Isaiah 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not. **A fool utters all his mind...***

Whatever possessed Hezekiah to do something so stupid? He not only uttered all his mind, but he revealed all the state secrets! But this is what happens when someone has been under intense pressure for a long time, and when suddenly that pressure is relieved. It is easy to condemn. It is easy too, to notice the consequences – that visit brought about the visit of Babylonian armies intent on rapine, murder and plunder. What stupid things

have we said, that have brought about far reaching consequences? We probably will never know. Jesus says that we will be judged upon every idle word that comes from our big mouths. We should humbly beg for forgiveness, for without fail, words trip out which are not appropriate, and as Hezekiah found out, there is no excuse, even if we are/ have been stressed. We are at our most vulnerable when enduring and after enduring trials. It is time to exercise discretion. Proverbs 12:23: *A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.*

Samson

Many may protest that he was no fool, and that he allowed his downfall to develop to bring about a great destruction of the enemies of Israel. This much may well be true. However, the facts that are explained in the book of Judges, show how that Samson did not want to reveal the source of his great strength, and quite rightly so, it was a gift from God, and was a useful asset in putting the armies of the aliens to flight. He had doubts about Delilah evidently, as he had not informed everything to her, about himself. So it took seven attempts to wheedle out the information. She used her charm, and persistent nagging to obtain what was classified information: Judges 16:17: *That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.* Yes, he told her all his heart... **A fool utters all his mind...** why not? She was his lady-friend...but she was not his wife. There had been no commitment, yet Samson had allowed himself to *be vexed unto death*. Was that wise, when he was the chief defence against the Philistines who were attempting to vex the nation of Israel to death? Amos 5:13 *Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.* It is true that with Samson there were extenuating circumstances, but the consequences of his

words, he paid for dearly. Through weakness he was made strong. His weakness, is something perhaps we can learn from. We do not have to feel guilty by keeping secrets from those we love. There are reasons sometimes that information is kept quiet. If it has no benefit, for that person, if it compromises the situation, if it will cause tension, it is wise to just be quiet. Micah 7:5 *Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.*

Other examples

Doeg the Edomite in 1 Samuel 21, 22 observed a private moment of David in communication with the priests. He who had no loyalty, except to himself, went and blabbed all to the megalomaniacal Saul, and caused the murder of the faithful priestly family. He cared only about promotion, that was his motivation, and didn't worry about the trifle of a few dead priests.

Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:30,31 flushed with pride, attributed all the magnificence of the Babylonian palace and gardens *Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?* Within minutes, he was struck cold with fear, as he was informed all before him, he would lose. A fool utters all his mind... And what a mind? It can be seen in all its disgusting self-serving, depraved filthy ways. That is the human mind. James 3:10: *Out of the same mouth proceeds blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

Us

The mouth reflects really the content of the mind. It is a traffic light of the state of our emotions. Emotions are not always easy to control. Anger, envy, jealousy, covetousness, hunger, love, passion, pain, are all triggers which cause our minds to forget its training, and our mouth can just blurt out whatever we are feeling. Some people

are very much misled if they think that this is just being honest. It is not a matter of honesty, to reveal what you are thinking all the time. Thoughts are meant to be private, and not shared, which is why God only gave the gift of reading the thoughts of other men, to a very select few people – Jesus Christ being one of them. We have an opportunity to stop our thoughts before they become words, before they become sin. Some people use that as a defence when they say hurtful or cutting things, - I am just being honest – actually it is being stupid. For the consequences of words which are ill judged or said on the spur of the moment can do far more damage, than any good the pious feeling of “being honest” will bring. Proverbs 19:11 *The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*

*A fool utters all his mind: but a wise man **keeps it in till afterwards.***

It is the teaching of scripture here in this very helpful and practical subject, that when tension, or emotions are high – keep quiet. It doesn't matter what the other person thinks of your silence. Keeping our mouth from sin, is the key objective. As time passes, and the mood changes, the tension lifts. The Assyrian army has gone away. It's easy to feel light hearted, and phew, that was a close shave... but danger still lurks. The other person may well be nursing a grievance. Prudence, and thoughtfulness is still required, lest we become the bigger fool. Proverbs 14:33 *Wisdom **rests** in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.*

Jesus Christ

This man, being one of us, was touched with all the feelings of our infirmities, and was tempted in all points as we. In fact, he was tempted in more ways than any of us. I am not necessarily tempted in everything that my neighbour is tempted in, as we are all different, but Jesus tasted death for every man. He was tempted in

all points ... he was given huge power, amazing strength, able to read other people's thoughts, he was given the Holy Spirit in abundance, aspects which we ourselves have not experienced. He was provoked continuously, intensely, physically, yet he knew he could walk away from the whole lot, and could overthrow the Roman legions in a jiffy, make Pilate look like the fool he was, the high priests for the thieving little bandits that they were... yet he didn't. He had a greater enemy to overthrow – his mind, his mouth. Despite the extremity of his tortuous temptations, never did Jesus speak all his mind. He spoke in parables. He was careful what he revealed. He was guarded, and thought very carefully about what he should speak. If he wasn't sure, if the temptation to say something edgy, or hasty was there, then he said nothing. He answered him not a word. Even after Jesus ascended to heaven, he uttered not all his mind. In fact, he wrote a letter to his special friends, and even that was in code. The book of Revelation is all that Jesus revealed **afterwards**.

This is the heavenly standard.

When the rage has passed, when the vanity has subsided, when the pride is broken, maybe then afterwards, if we have anything worth saying, then let our words be few, as God is in heaven, and we are upon earth. See Ecclesiastes 5:2

Brother Terry