

Broader context: 15 - 23

The tongue and the wise
Wisdom, the fountain of life
Fine speech and false speech
Words of the wise; words of the foolish
Wealth and poverty
Wise words to a child

Passage Outline:

Vs. 1-16

Riches and Poverty:

Vs. 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 16

- **A good name better than silver and gold**
- **Rich and poor; the Lord Creator of both**
- **Riches: derived from humility and fear of Lord**
- **The rich rule; those who borrow are enslaved**
- **Those blessed to share with the poor**
- **Those who oppress poor ... will become poor**
 - **In the streets, at the gates ...**
 - **To the simple: Learn prudence**
 - **I will speak noble things/ truth/ righteousness**
 - **My words are straight (not crooked)**
 - **Better than silver, gold, or jewels**

Vs. 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15

Prudence and Guidance:

- **The prudent see danger**
- **The crooked are snared; those guided avoid**
- **Train your child ... not soon depart**
- **The unjust reap injustice**
- **Remove a scoffer, strife disappears**
- **The rod of discipline drives out folly**

Vs. 11, 12, 13, 14

Speech and word:

- **Kings befriend those of gracious words**
- **The Lord overthrows traitor and their words**
- **The sluggard sees dangers where there are none**
- **The mouth of a forbidden woman is a deep pit**

Vs. 17-23

Words of the wise:

- Apply them to your heart
- Keep them upon your lips
- Trust in the Lord
 - I (Wisdom) have provided counsel,
so that you might know right and true
- Do not rob the poor: The Lord will defend them

Key words and Thoughts: wisdom (σοφία/ חָכְמָה); (fool (ἄνους/ ἀσεβής/ כְּסִיל/ ἄφρων); simple (ἁπλός/ ἁκακος); knowledge (γνῶσις/ σοφία); prudence (ἐννοια/ עֲרֻמָּה); seek (ζητέω/ שָׁחַר); instruction (ἐκπαίδευσις/ מוֹסֵר); hear (ἀκούω/ שָׁמַע); way (ὁδός/ דֶּרֶךְ) rod (ῥάβδος/ שֶׁבֶט)

Questions:

Do you ever think about riches and poverty? If so, what thoughts come to mind? What informs those thoughts?

In your view, what constitutes 'prudence'? Do you know anyone who is prudent? What makes them 'prudent'?

How best are you corrected? How best are children corrected?