

Plant Anger; Grow a Fool

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Prov. 3:35, 12:16, 29:11
- B. The Bible is a book of examples: some are patterns, others are warnings.
 - 1. 1Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4; 1Cor. 11:1
- C. Fools' examples can teach powerful lessons to those who desire to be wise

I. AHITHOPHEL: ANGER LEADS TO SELF-DESTRUCTION

- A. 2Sam. 15:12, 31-34, 37, 16:20-23, 17:1-23
- B. Ahithophel was a trusted advisor to King David; his judgment was highly respected by all - 2Sam. 16:23
- C. However, he gave himself bad advice, deserted David, and followed Absalom in his rebellion.
- D. On one occasion, Absalom sought and rejected his advice; Ahithophel went home and hanged himself - 2Sam. 17:23
- E. Do people in the church ever overreact when things don't go the way they think they should?
- F. Do people in the church ever hurt themselves to make a point?

II. NABAL: ANGER LEADS TO DISHONOR

- A. 1Sam. 25:5-17
- B. Nabal began with the premise that he was right and that David was wrong
 - 1. This most often afflicts men, but women can succumb. They believe that their concept of what is fair and right is the only correct way
 - 2. They insist on their way; anyone who disagrees is wrong and becomes the object of their anger
 - 3. They treat dishonorably those who have earned their respect; thus, by dishonoring others temporarily, they damage their own honor long term
- C. He refused to show respect and gratitude to David for the protection and leadership he provided.
 - 1. Do some professed Christians fail to respect spiritual leaders?
 - 2. 1Thes. 5:12-13; 1Tim. 5:19; Eph. 6:2; 1Peter 2:17

III. SANBALLAT: ANGER LEADS TO DEFEAT

- A. Neh. 4:1-15
 - 1. Anger moves one to talk like a fool - 1-2
 - 2. Anger draws in other fools - 3
 - 3. Anger makes one act like a fool - 7-8
 - 4. Anger leads one to make a fool's threats - 12
 - 5. Anger makes one look like a fool - 15
- B. Angry people are a danger to themselves and others - Prov. 22:24-25, 29:22
 - 1. How do you react when angry? - Ecc. 7:9; Eph. 4:26; Psalm 4:4, 37:8