



**DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS**

**Carstairs-Bancroft United Church**

November 3, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

## HEADLONG INTO DANGER

*A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on [toward danger] and suffers the consequences.*

Proverbs 27:12 NLT

### READ Proverbs 27:8-12

In 1892, a resident with cholera accidentally transmitted the disease via the Elbe River to Hamburg, Germany's entire water supply. Within weeks, ten thousand citizens died. Eight years earlier, German microbiologist Robert Koch had made a discovery: cholera was waterborne. Koch's revelation prodded officials in large European cities to invest in filtration systems to protect their water. Hamburg authorities, however, had done nothing. Citing costs and alleging dubious science, they'd ignored clear warnings while their city careened toward catastrophe.

The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about those of us who see trouble yet refuse to act. "A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions" (27:12 nlt). When God helps us see danger ahead, it's common sense to take action to address the danger. We wisely change course. Or we ready ourselves with appropriate precautions that He provides. But we do something. To do nothing is sheer lunacy. We can all fail to miss the warning signs, however, and careen toward disaster. "The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences" (v. 12 nlt).

In Scripture and in the life of Jesus, God shows us the path to follow and warns us of trouble we'll surely face. If we're foolish, we'll barrel ahead, headlong into danger. Instead, as He leads us by His grace, may we heed His wisdom and change course.

**By Winn Collier**

### PRAY & REFLECT

**Dear God, please help me listen to You and turn away from danger. Amen**

When have you refused God's wisdom? How can you better learn to respond to His warnings?

### SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

In Proverbs 1, Solomon gives the purpose for this book, which includes receiving "instruction in prudent behavior" and giving "prudence to those who are simple [or gullible]" (vv. 3-4). To be prudent is to act with or show care for the future; to be wise in practical affairs. In the Old Testament, the word *prudent* appears nineteen times (seventeen in the book of Proverbs). The prudent "hold their tongues" (10:19), "overlook an insult" (12:16), "keep their knowledge to themselves" (v. 23), and "act with knowledge" (13:16). By contrast, fools "show their annoyance at once" (12:16) and blurt out (v. 23) and "expose their folly" (13:16). Moreover, the prudent "give thought to their steps" (14:15) and "are crowned with knowledge" (v. 18), while the simple "believe anything" (v. 15) and "inherit folly" (v. 18). Clearly, the path of prudence is the way of wisdom. – By **Alyson Kieda**

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