

Proverbs 19:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Analysis

Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his neighbor. Prosperity attracts associates; poverty repels them. This verse observes social reality without necessarily endorsing it - wealth produces fair-weather friends while poverty produces isolation. The observation warns both rich (your friends may be mercenary) and poor (expect social marginalization). It also indicts human nature - valuing people for utility rather than inherent worth.

Historical Context

Reflects ancient social structures where patronage systems connected wealthy benefactors with dependent clients. The poor lacked such networks, experiencing social isolation alongside material want.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How much of your social network depends on your wealth or usefulness to others?
2. How do you treat the poor whose friendship offers you no material advantage?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁ	מִרְאֵת	עַמְּךָ	עַמְּךָ	רַבְּתָם	רַבְּתָם	אֶלְעָזָר	אֶלְעָזָר	יְסִירָה	יְסִירָה	רַבְּתָם	רַבְּתָם	מִרְאֵת	רֹאשׁ
Wealth	maketh	friends	many	but the poor	friends	is separated							

H1952 H3254 H7453 H7227 H1800 H7453 H6504

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:20 (Parallel theme): The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.

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