

Proverbs 19:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

Analysis

All the brethren of the poor do hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him? He pursues them with words, yet they are wanting to him. Poverty alienates even family; friends distance themselves despite the poor person's appeals. The threefold intensification (brothers hate, friends depart, words fail to recall them) emphasizes the isolation poverty produces. This verse indicts human nature while warning about poverty's social consequences. It should move us to compassion for the marginalized rather than join their abandonment.

Historical Context

Reflects ancient kinship-based society where even family ties strained under economic pressure. The poor experienced comprehensive social rejection, compounding their material suffering with relational isolation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to family members or friends experiencing poverty and its social stigma?
2. What fear of poverty's social consequences motivates your economic decisions?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	אֶחָיו	כָּל שֹׁן	שֹׂנְאָהּ הוּא	אֵלַי	כִּי
H3605	All the brethren	of the poor	do hate	H637	H3588
	H251	H7326	H8130		
	מִכַּיִן	כַּחֲקֹו	מִמֶּנּוּ	מִיָּדוֹ	
	him how much more do his friends	go far	H4480	from him he pursueth	
	H4828	H7368		H7291	
	אִמְרָם	לֹא	הִמָּה:		
	them with words	H3808	H1992		
	H561				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:4 (Parallel theme): Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Psalms 38:11 (Parallel theme): My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

Proverbs 18:23 (Parallel theme): The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

Proverbs 21:13 (Parallel theme): Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Psalms 88:18 (Parallel theme): Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

Psalms 88:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.

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

James 2:6 (Parallel theme): But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org