

# Proverbs 22:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

## Analysis

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Those who ignore the poor's cries will themselves cry unheard. This reciprocity reflects God's moral governance: we receive mercy as we show mercy. The rich man ignored Lazarus and found himself unheard in torment (Luke 16:19-31). God identifies with the poor; refusing to help them is refusing Him. This doesn't earn salvation but reveals whether we've been transformed by grace. Those who have received divine mercy naturally extend human mercy. Hard-heartedness toward the vulnerable demonstrates unconverted hearts. The principle applies broadly: our treatment of others prefigures God's treatment of us. Judgment is without mercy to those who show no mercy (James 2:13).

## Historical Context

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Prophetic literature repeatedly condemned Israel for oppressing the poor while maintaining religious externals. God demanded justice and mercy, not empty ritual.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. Do you respond compassionately to those in need, or close your heart and ears?
2. How does receiving God's mercy compel you toward mercy for others?

## Interlinear Text

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רַחֲבָה וְתַבְתַּחַת וְבַתְּחַת  
man saith The slothful There is a lion without in the streets

H559 H6102 H738 H2351 H8432 H7339

אֲכַחַת:

I shall be slain

H7523

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 15:19** (Parallel theme): The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

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