

Proverbs 27:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

Analysis

He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him—This proverb exposes insincere flattery disguised as blessing. The Hebrew bārak (ברך, blesseth) combined with qôl gādôl (קול גדול, loud voice) and inappropriate timing (early morning disturbance) reveals ulterior motives.

The excessive, ill-timed praise is **counted a curse** (qělālâ, קללה) because it's recognized as manipulation, not genuine goodwill. True friendship speaks truthful words at appropriate times (27:6, 'Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful'). This warns against both giving and receiving flattery—it corrupts relationships.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern court culture included professional flatterers seeking patronage. The Proverbs consistently warn against smooth words used manipulatively (26:28, 29:5). Early morning hours were especially sacred for prayer and reflection, making loud intrusions particularly offensive.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When are you tempted to use excessive praise to manipulate others rather than speak truth in love?
2. How can you distinguish between genuine encouragement and flattery in what others say to you?
3. What does this proverb teach about the importance of timing and sincerity in our words?

Interlinear Text

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| בָּרוּךְ הוּא | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן | בְּקָרְבָּן |
| He that blesseth | his friend | voice | with a loud | in the morning | rising early | | | | |
| H1288 | H7453 | H6963 | H1419 | H1242 | H7925 | | | | |

לְנֶשֶׁב תִּפְעַל הַלְּלָה a curse it shall be counted H7045 H2803 H0

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