

Proverbs 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined
mine ear to them that instructed me!

Analysis

The lament者 continues: 'I obeyed not my teachers nor inclined my ear to my instructors.' This confession acknowledges both disobedience and inattention. The Hebrew 'shama' (hear/obey) and 'natah' (incline/extend) describe active engagement that was refused. Teachers were available, instruction was offered, the student simply wouldn't engage. The tragedy is rejected opportunity - wisdom was accessible but refused.

Historical Context

Israel's prophetic history illustrates this repeatedly. Jeremiah 25:3-4 records: 'From the thirteenth year of Josiah...even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened. And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened.' Persistent instruction met persistent refusal.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What teachers or instructors in your life deserve greater attention than you're giving?
2. How can you 'incline your ear' more actively to godly counsel rather than passively ignoring it?
3. What prevents you from heeding instruction you know is wise and good?

Interlinear Text

לֹא ! לֹמַדְתִּי מִזֶּה בְּקָרְבָּנִי מִזֶּה שֶׁמְעַתִּי
H3808 And have not obeyed H8085 the voice H6963 of my teachers H3384 to them that instructed H3925 H3808

אַזְנִי יָתַן הַטְּלֵב
H5186 nor inclined H241 mine ear

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:7 (Parallel theme): Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

1 Thessalonians 4:8 (Parallel theme): He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Luke 15:18 (Parallel theme): I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,