

Proverbs 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

Analysis

Now therefore, children, listen to me; attend to my words. The Hebrew 'shama' (hear/obey) and 'qashav' (attend/heed) command responsive attention. After extensive warning about sexual seduction (7:6-23), Solomon directly exhorts his audience: learn from this! Observing others' folly should teach without personally experiencing destruction. Wisdom learns from others' mistakes; folly requires personal catastrophe to learn.

Historical Context

Proverbs functions as wisdom transmission from experienced to inexperienced, old to young, wise to foolish. The pedagogical model is observational - watch the fool's path and avoid it, watch the wise man's path and follow it. Hebrews 12:15-17 similarly uses Esau as negative example: learn from his failure without repeating it.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Whose failures can you learn from without personally repeating their mistakes?
2. How can you cultivate wisdom through observation rather than requiring personal catastrophe?
3. What warnings are you currently ignoring that observation of others should make compelling?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה ה	כֹּה נִים	שְׁמָעוּ	לִי	וְהִקְשׁ יְבוֹ
H6258	unto me now therefore O ye children	H8085	H0	H7181
	H1121	Hearken		and attend
לְאָמְרֵי	פִּי:			
H561	H6310			
to the words	of my mouth			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 5:7 (Word): Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 4:1 (Parallel theme): Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.