

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	בְּ נִים	שְׁמַע	וְקַח	יְבוֹלָה	לֵב	וְשִׁמְעָוָה
H6258	unto me now therefore	O ye children	Hearken	H0	and attend	
	H1121		H8085		H7181	

לְאַמְרֵי	פִּי					
to the words	of my mouth					
H561	H6310					

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.