

Proverbs 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

Analysis

Foolish woman is loud, simple, and knows nothing. Contrasting Wisdom (9:1-6), Folly is personified as foolish woman. The Hebrew 'hamah' (loud/tumultuous), 'pethiy' (simple/naive), and 'yada mah' (knows nothing) describe her character. Foolishness is noisy, ignorant, but confident. The fool speaks much while knowing little. Proverbs consistently portrays folly as loud and wisdom as measured. Noise doesn't indicate substance; often it covers ignorance.

Historical Context

Ancient wisdom valued measured speech. Ecclesiastes 5:2-3 warns: 'Be not rash with thy mouth...a fool voice is known by multitude of words.' James 1:19 instructs: 'Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.' Modern culture increasingly values volume and confidence over substance and truth. Social media amplifies this - loudest voices gain platforms regardless of wisdom.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you discern between confident foolishness and humble wisdom in voices around you?
2. What areas of your life involve loud confident speaking about topics you actually know little about?
3. How can you cultivate measured speech that reflects genuine knowledge rather than mere confidence?

Interlinear Text

מִתְּהִלָּה וְזֹהַר אֲשֶׁר
woman A foolish is clamorous she is simple and knoweth nothing
H802 H3687 H1993 H6615 H1077 H3045 H4100

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 7:11 (Parallel theme): (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

Proverbs 5:6 (Parallel theme): Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

1 Timothy 6:4 (Parallel theme): He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,