

Proverbs 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

Analysis

Wisdom sends out her maidens, calls from the city's heights. The Hebrew 'shalach' (send) and 'qara' (call/proclaim) describe public invitation. Wisdom doesn't hide but publicly invites all. The maidens represent message-bearers; the height represents visibility and authority. Wisdom's invitation is open, public, authoritative. Unlike seduction's private whisper, wisdom shouts publicly, 'Come to my feast!'

Historical Context

Ancient royal banquets involved messengers going throughout the city inviting guests. Jesus' parable of the wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-14) uses similar imagery - king sends servants inviting guests. The gospel similarly is public proclamation: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15). Wisdom's invitation is universal.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How are you responding to wisdom's public invitation versus folly's private seduction?
2. What role might you play as wisdom's 'maiden' - messenger inviting others to her feast?
3. How does the gospel's public proclamation reflect wisdom's open invitation?

Interlinear Text

מִרְמִי גַּפְתִּי שָׁלַחַת הָעָלָת יְהִי תְּקִבָּת אֶל עַל גַּפְתִּי מִרְמִי^{the highest places}
She hath sent forth her maidens she crieth upon^{upon} the highest places
H7971 H5291 H7121 H5921 H1610 H4791

בָּרָת:
of the city
H7176

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 9:14 (Parallel theme): For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

Psalms 68:11 (Parallel theme): The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.