

Chapter 19

The Fool On The Hill

BIBLE

They turned and went up into the hill country, and came to the valley of Eshcol, and spied it out.¹ As they went up the ascent to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said to them, “Is the seer here?”²

Behold, an old man came from his work out of the field at evening. Now the man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he lived in Gibeah; but the men of the place were Benjamites.³

When a great multitude came together, and people from every city were coming to him, he spoke by a parable.⁴ The old man said, “Peace be to you; however let me supply all your needs. Just don’t sleep in the street.”⁵ A senseless man doesn’t know, neither does a fool understand this.⁶

“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone thinks that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, that he may become wise.”⁷

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, ‘He has taken the wise in their craftiness.’⁸

COMMENTARY

¹ **Deuteronomy 1:24** [*“They” are the Beatles*]

² **1 Samuel 9:11**

³ **Judges 19:16** [*The old man, the seer, is “The Fool On The Hill”*]

The main character in this gem by Paul is actually wise, but people can’t see that because they are blinded by their prejudices. The “fool on the hill” represents anyone who is brilliant and unique but shunned by those who are narrow minded and not ready to hear what he has to say. It has even been suggested that this could describe Jesus, and that the hill is Calvary.

⁴ **Luke 8:4**

⁵ **Judges 19:20**

⁶ **Psalms 92:6**

⁷ **1 Corinthians 3:18** Even though he is perceived otherwise, the fool is very wise and makes perfect sense: “The man of a thousand voices is talking perfectly loud.”

⁸ **1 Corinthians 3:19** The “wisdom of the world” comes from the ego, the false self. It encourages us to look outside of ourselves for validation. It tells us that we are never quite good enough, and that having more money, power and status is what will make us happy and successful.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”⁹

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who is wise listens to counsel.”¹⁰ Don’t judge according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”¹¹

“The wise man’s eyes are in his head, and the fool walks in darkness—and yet I perceived that one event happens to them all.”¹² Whoever seeks to save his life loses it, but whoever loses his life preserves it.”¹³

But certain worthless fellows said, “How could this man save us?” They despised him, and brought him no present. But he held his peace.”¹⁴

Of the angels he says, “Who makes his angels winds, and his servants a flame of fire?”¹⁵

They said to him, “Please ask counsel of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.”¹⁶ He answered, “Don’t be afraid; for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”¹⁷

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia. From there they sailed to Cyprus.”¹⁸

⁹ **James 3:17**

¹⁰ **Proverbs 12:15**

¹¹ **John 7:24** The critics of the “fool” would be wise not to judge him based on appearances. They need to get past his “foolish grin” and hear what he is saying.

¹² **Ecclesiastes 2:14** The wise “fool” is aware and observant. The “eyes in his head see the world spinning round,” and “he sees the sun going down.”

¹³ **Luke 17:33** Whoever loses their tendency to identify with the ego, and surrenders their human consciousness to the Divine, finds real life. Self improvement is helpful here, but self awareness is life changing.

¹⁴ **1 Samuel 10:27** Despite the wisdom of the “fool,” others “don’t like him.” “They can see that he’s just a fool...nobody listens to him.” Nonetheless, the “fool” holds his peace (he’s “keeping perfectly still.”) Regarding his detractors, he “knows that they’re the fools” but he ignores their criticism (“he never listens to them” and “never shows his feelings”).

¹⁵ **Hebrews 1:7** [*The “angels” are the Beatles*]

¹⁶ **Judges 18:5**

¹⁷ **2 Kings 6:16**

¹⁸ **Acts 13:4** Sergio Mendes and Brasil ‘66 had a top 10 hit single in 1968 with their bossa nova version of “The Fool on the Hill.”