

Characteristics of a Fool

Proverbs 26

What is a Fool?

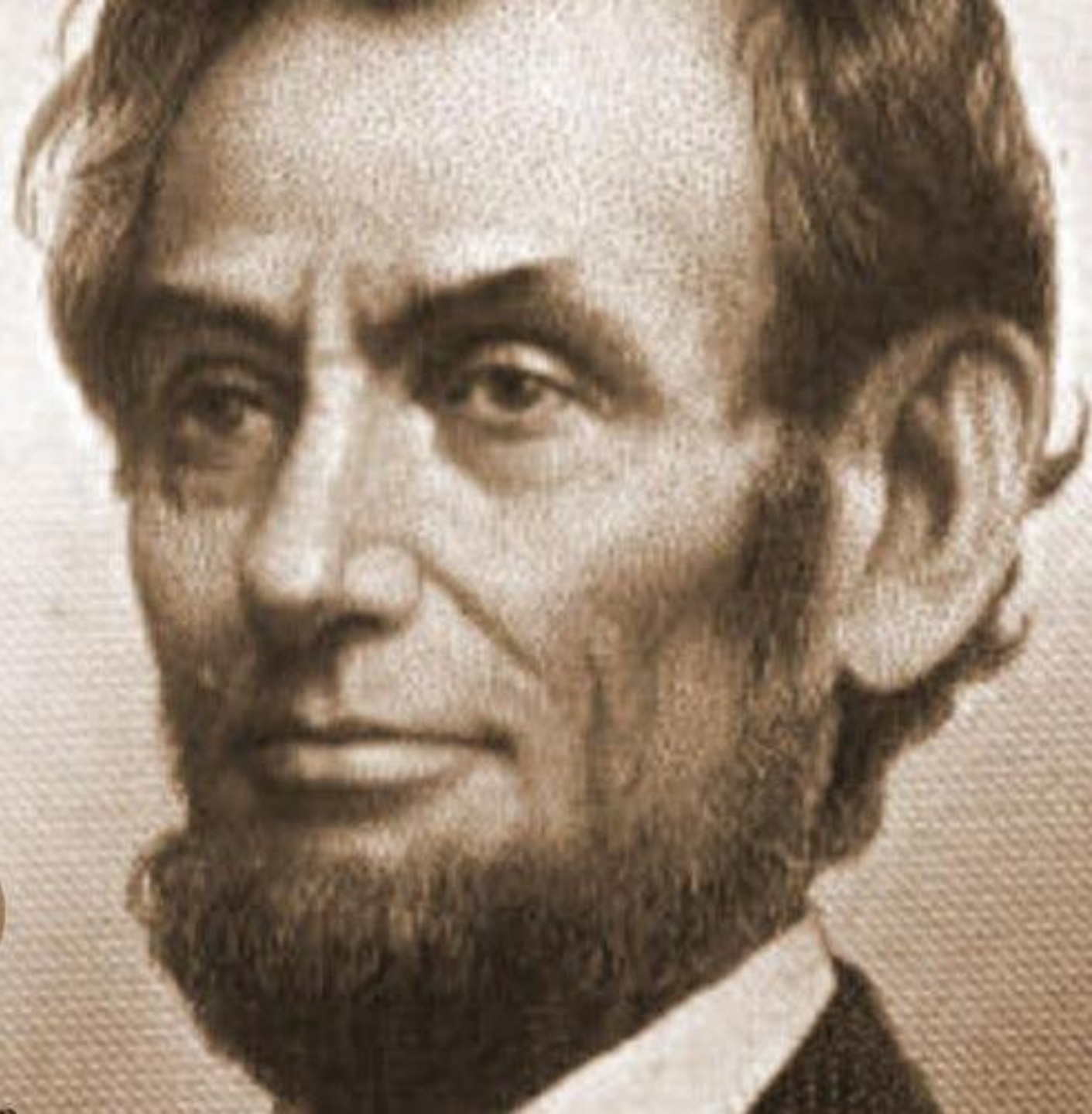


Let us look at some **characteristics** of fools in **Proverbs** together

1. A Fool Cannot Control His/her Words (10:8)

- ▶ Two of the popular themes in the Proverbs are of **fools** and the **tongue**. (in almost every chapter)
Often these two themes come together in a single verse. (i.e. 10:8, 10, 14, 18)
- ▶ (James 3:2) If **self-control** is wisdom, then the **lack** of it is definitely foolishness. (ill: making a fool)
- ▶ (15:2) Is your tongue often **unchecked**? There is nothing wrong with waiting a few seconds to speak. (James 1:19; Prov. 10:19; 13:3; 17:27; 18:13)

*Better to
remain silent
and be thought a
fool than to
speak out and
remove all
doubt.* ” ”



Abraham Lincoln

2. A Fool Cannot Receive Instruction (1:7)

- ▶ (1:7) “despise” is a strong word...Do you often despise reproofs? Or simply dislike them?
- ▶ No doubt the manner of the reproof given plays a part. Nevertheless, why is it that some people just can't take advice?
- ▶ “no God” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1) they want no master
- ▶ (16:2) “pure in his own eyes” Is that how you see yourself? (12:15) The choice is up to you. (13:18)

“DO NOT CORRECT A FOOL,
OR HE WILL HATE YOU;

CORRECT A WISE MAN
AND HE WILL APPRECIATE YOU.”

-PROVERBS 9:8



3. A Fool Cannot Learn From His/her Mistakes (26:8-12)



- ▶ This is closely related to receiving reproof, since **growth by definition is change.**
- ▶ (18:2) Some people just never want to grow or change. Why is that?
- ▶ (1:7) **Repentance** requires humility before God.
- ▶ (28:26) He would rather trust in his own mind. (3:7)

What's wrong with this picture?



4. A Fool Is Often Lazy (26:13-17)

- ▶ I am not saying that there are no hardworking fools. But rather laziness and foolishness go hand in hand together. (1:32)
- ▶ This goes beyond **not doing things** or just a **lack of work ethics**. (6:6-11) It is closely related to growth and change. However, what is missing is **HOPE** and **FUTURE**. (23:17-18; 24:14)
- ▶ So the question is: **what gets you out of bed?** If you don't have an answer, you will stay in bed...



5. A Fool Points Out Other's Shortcomings (v.18-19)

- ▶ There is nothing wrong with jokes. And **humour** can be a great thing. (17:22)
- ▶ “deceived” The word here is to shoot or to throw, causing the person to fall—therefore **bullying**.
- ▶ (14:9) When we laugh at another person's **expense**, or just point out the shortcomings of others, it is “out of place.” (Eph. 5:4) Where is love, empathy, sensibility, and thanksgiving in “jokes” like that?

Conclusion

- ▶ A Fool Cannot Control His/her Words
- ▶ A Fool Cannot Receive Instruction
- ▶ A Fool Cannot Learn From His/her Mistakes
- ▶ A Fool Is Often Lazy
- ▶ A Fool Points Out Other's Shortcomings as a joke

