**R897\_Rumination for Apr. 03, 2022**

The **T**heme: **The Fools in Scripture** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *O* ***fools****, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:* Lk. 24:25

The **T**hots:

Intro. 1st April was April Fool’s Day. **P**ranks were **P**layed on various **P**eople. Were you April Fooled?

The Bible mentions many ***fools***. Among them were…

1. **Saul, the Impudent Fool** – *behold, I have played* ***the fool****…* **I Sam. 26:21**
2. He was **A**fter God’s **A**nointed, David, to **A**ssassinate him*.* I Sam. 26:2

*Saul arose…having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.*

1. **A**bishai was ready to **A**ssist David to **S**lay **S**aul when he found Saul Sleeping in the **S**ame cave. I Sam. 26:8

*Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day:*

*now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once.*

1. But *David said to* ***A****bishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand*

***A****gainst the LORD'S* ***A****nointed, and be guiltless?* I Sam. 26:9

1. **A**t the end, Saul **A**dmitted the error of his ways and **A**cknowledged: I Sam. 26:21

*Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold,* ***I have played the fool****, and have erred exceedingly.*

1. **The Rich Indulgent Fool** **Lk. 12:20**
2. The Man’s **P**rosperity in his **P**lentifulness – Lk. 12:16

*The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

1. His **P**roblems arising from the **P**lenitude of his **P**ossessions – Lk. 12:17

*He thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*

1. His **P**lans for his **P**ersonal **P**leasure: Lk. 12:18-19
2. His **S**elf-Confidence – *This will I do…I will…I will…I will*
3. His **S**elf*-*Assurance *– thou hast much goods laid up for many years;*
4. His **S**elf-Indulgence – *Soul…take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*
5. His **P**rospective **P**light from God’s **P**erspective – Lk. 12:20

*But God said unto him,* ***Thou fool****, this night thy soul shall be required of thee:*

*then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

1. **Nabal, the Insolent Fool I Sam. 25**
2. Nabal’s **R**iches – [his] *possessions were…very great…Now the name of the man was Nabal…* I Sam. 25:2f
3. David’s **R**equest – I Sam. 25:8 8 *Give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.*
4. Nabal’s **R**udeness and **R**efusal – I Sam. 25:10-11

*Nabal answered…Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? …Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be?*

1. David’s **R**etort in **R**eply – *David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword…* I Sam. 25:13
2. Nabal’s servant’s **R**eport to Abigal, Nabal’s wife – I Sam. 25:14-15

*David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.*

*But the men were very good unto us…*

1. Abigail’s **R**esponse to plead for David’s merciful **R**ighteousness: I Sam. 25:23-24

*When Abigail saw David, she…fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be:*

1. Abigail’s Appeal to David not to **R**egard Nabal’s Foolish **R**ights – I Sam. 25:25

*Let My lord, I pray thee, regard* [not] *this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he****;***

***Nabal is his name, and folly is with him:***

1. The **R**esult of David’s **Ri**ghteousness – I Sam. 25:32-34 *David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel…blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee*
2. **The Atheistic Impertinent Fool Psa. 14:1; 53:1**
3. This Fool’s **S**tatement: ***The fool*** *hath said in his heart, There is no God.*
4. This Fool’s **S**tate: *They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*
5. This Fool in God’s **S**ight: *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy:*

*there is none that doeth good, no, not one.* Psa. 14:2-3

1. **The Ignorant Fools on the road to Emmaus. Lk. 24:25**
2. They were fools being not to **R**ecognise the **R**isen Christ – Lk. 24:25

*Then He said unto them,* *O* ***fools****, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:*

1. They **R**ead the Scriptures but did not understand what was **R**evealed. Lk. 24:44-45

*He said…all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me. Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures*

1. They then **R**ecognised and **R**emembered Christ in the Breaking of Bread. Lk. 24:30-31

*It came to pass, as…He took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them…their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight.*

*Fools in their heart have said, There is no God of might;*

*Corrupt are they and base their deeds, In evil they delight.* The Psalter

**REFLETIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 897**

1. Was Paul ever a Fool?

He had every qualification for him to be proud of as a high-ranking Jew. He knew it and he could be proud of it like any other qualified Jew. He wrote in Philippians 3:4-7, NKJV –

*Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel,*

*of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;*

*concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.*

Was he a Fool to count all these gains as loss that that He might be more like Christ?

He went to the extent that he was prepared to regard himself a ***fool*** for taking such a stand. He wrote to the so-called wise philosophers of Greek fame in the Corinthian church:

**II Cor. 11:16 –***I say again, Let no man think me a fool;*

*if otherwise,* ***yet as a fool receive me****, that I may boast myself a little.*

**II Cor. 11:19 –** *For ye suffer* ***fools*** *gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.*

**II Cor. 11:23 –** *Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a* ***fool****) I am more;*

*in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.*

**II Cor. 12:6 –** *For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a* ***fool****;*

*for I will say the truth: but now I forbear,*

*lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be,*

*or that he heareth of me.*

**II Cor. 12:11 –** *I am become* ***a fool*** *in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.*

If the Corinthian believers thought that Paul was a fool to leave all his gains and

qualifications just to follow Christ, let them think and treat him so.

Paul was prepared to be a fool for Christ’s sake which in actual fact was the wisdom of

God working in His life and he was wise to be what He chose to be, i.e. to be like Christ.

In his life, Paul **A**imed and **A**spired to … **Phil. 3:9-14**

* ***be found in Him****, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law,*

*but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

* ***That I may know Him****, and the power of His resurrection,*

*and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;*

* *If by any means* ***I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead****.*

*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after,*

*if* ***that I may apprehend*** *that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

* *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:*

*but* ***this one thing I do****, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

* *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Are you prepared to be ***a fool*** for Christ’s sake? **REFLECT.**

1. King Solomon was known to be the wisest king on earth. *He spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five* (I Kgs. 4:32). In the Book of Proverbs which he wrote, he contrasted and compared wisdom and foolishness. In the King James Version of the Bible, *fool*, *fools* and *foolish* occur 36, 19 and 13 times; while *wise* and *wisdom* occur 62 and 53 times respectively. Have you read the book of Proverbs? If not, why not make a start? **REFLECT**.

**Points To Ponder:**

*To be a Fool for Christ is exceedingly better than to be* ***W****ise in your own* ***W****ays.*