

“Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 5”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a seven-part series. The title of the presentation was “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 5.”

The presentation began with the fifth listed characteristic that God hates—that being “feet swift to run to evil (mischief).” From there, I also talked about the fifth characteristic that God loves—that being “feet swift to edification.”

Described as evil

While the King James Version uses the word *mischief*, the New King James Version uses the word *evil*. According to *Strong's Concordance*, notice the following information about how the Hebrew word *Ra* is translated throughout the King James Version.

- The Hebrew word translated *mischief* in Proverbs 6:18 in the King James Version is translated as *mischief* 19 times throughout the Bible.
- The Hebrew word translated *mischief* in Proverbs 6:18 in the King James Version is translated as *evil* 436 times throughout the Bible.

Hence, I prefer to stress the New King James usage of *evil*.

Swift feet to evil of devil

Feet that are swift in running to evil certainly sounds like the devil. Let's notice examples of the approach of the devil.

Satan against Job

- Job 1:7—Satan was going to and fro—looking for trouble.
- Job 1:8—The Lord opened the door for trials upon Job.
- Job 1:9-11—Satan was quick to suggest an evil way for Job to suffer.
- Job 1:12—The Lord approved the details, but set up limitations.
- Job 2:2—Satan was going to and fro—looking for trouble.
- Job 2:3—The opened the door for additional trials upon Job.

- Job 2:4-5—Satan was quick to suggest another evil way for Job to suffer.
- Job 2:6—The Lord approved the details, but set up limitations.

Wicked one snatching away seed

- Matthew 13:18—Hear the parable of the sower.
- Matthew 13:19—The wicked one snatched away what was sown in the heart.

Enemy sowing tares

- Matthew 13:24—Hear the parable of the wheat and tares.
- Matthew 13:25—The enemy sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

Running to evil

Notice a few references of running to evil.

- Proverbs 1:15—Do not walk in the way of them (sinners mentioned in verse 10)—keep your foot from their path.
- Proverbs 1:16—Their feet run to evil and they make haste to shed blood.
- Isaiah 59:7—Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity. Wasting and destruction are in their paths.
- Romans 3:15—Their feet are swift to shed blood.

Feet swift to edification

Feet that are swift to edification certainly sounds like the Father and Son. Let's notice examples of the approach of the Father and Son.

Cannot be manipulated

Let me begin by saying that the Father and Son cannot be manipulated—They are cheerful givers.

- Matthew 4:3—The devil tried to manipulate Christ: "If You are the Son of God . . ." The Son of God could not be manipulated.
- Matthew 4:6—The devil tried to manipulate Christ: "If You are the Son of God . . ." The Son of God could not be manipulated.
- Luke 12:13-14—The Son of God did not get sucked into a family conflict about an inheritance. He said: "Who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

Swift to help

Although the Father and Son cannot be manipulated, they are often swift to answer prayers. (It is true that, sometimes, they have a plan for waiting.)

- Genesis 18:23-33—The Lord listened to Abraham's negotiation and answered quickly.
- 1 Kings 19:11-12—Notice four ways that the Lord may answer—in the wind, in the earthquake, in the fire and with a still small voice.
- 2 Kings 6:16-17—The Lord opened the young man's eyes to see the angelic support.
- John 2:1-10—When Christ's mother approached Him about the lack of wine at a wedding, Jesus quickly responded to His mother's request.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-10—The Father of mercies and the God of all comfort helps His children—often very quickly, but not always.

Quick to listen

- While the Lord criticized the three friends of Job for what they said (Job 42:7), the book of Job reports something wonderful that the three friend did earlier—they said nothing for seven days (Job 2:13).
- James 1:19—Be swift to hear.

A time for strong words

Although I am going to mention a number of verses about being quick to say kind words, let's at least acknowledge that there is a time for strong words.

- Proverbs 27:5—"Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed."
- Proverbs 27:6—"Faithful are the wound of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

Quick to say kind words

- Proverbs 10:20—The tongue of the righteous is choice silver.
- Proverbs 15:1—A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- Proverbs 15:4—A wholesome tongue is a tree of life.
- Proverbs 25:11—A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
- Proverbs 25:12—A wise rebuker to an obedient ear is like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold.
- Colossians 4:6—Let your speech always be with grace (seasoned with salt) that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Serve the needs

Recognize that there are times to be quick to action and times to be patient.

- Luke 10:25-37—The good Samaritan decided to quickly serve a need.
- Galatians 6:1—Are you the right person to help? Do you have the correct approach?
- Matthew 25:34-40—There is a time to help people (serving needs like food, drink, shelter, clothing, health and visits in prison).