

How does your home life affect your financial future? (11:29)

He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the foolish will be servant to the wise hearted.

THE TEXT (NASB)

He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, and the foolish will be servant to the wise hearted.

He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind, and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart. Classic KJV - Proverbs 11:29

INTRODUCTION



War within the family wrecks the work and commerce of the troublemaker.

People commonly look forward to receiving some inheritance from their parents or grandparents, but if the harmony of the home is not sustained, their legacies are jeopardized.

Wind is a worthless inheritance—empty and useless, but it can also become dangerous.



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COMMENTARY

This warning is addressed to potential inheritors: Sons and daughters. It states that offspring will risk their inheritances by making trouble among their family members. Most parents will divvy up their legacies equally, regardless of their children's behaviour, but the text seems to imply that the inheritances should be discerned and custom-made, perhaps as a tool of reward and discipline.

Translation: *Troubles*

The Hebrew word for “troubles” here, עוֹכֵר (ô•kě, pronounced “oh-kare”) literally means “the one who troubles.” It’s a broad term, also translated as “the one who brings distress,” and it’s first used in Genesis 34:30, when Simeon and Levi cause trouble to their father Jacob by massacring an entire town of strangers, for the rape of their sister. Jacob’s final blessing to them, recorded in Genesis 49:5-7, was certainly not good. Their anger cost them their father’s blessing.

Trouble can take many forms: Unreliability, dishonesty, gossip, criticism, sarcasm, and anger to name a few. Our “own house” or household should be our powerhouse of effort and haven of refuge. Those who divide the household sap its productive potential. Jesus said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” Matthew 12:25.

What Wind?



Is the “wind” here describing a devastating hurricane or tornado? The text isn’t clear. At a minimum, we know that domestic upheaval causes damage.

Sometimes the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit as “wind” (John 3:8, John 20:22, Acts 2:2-4). So someone could read the text as saying, “Those, who for the sake of the gospel, cause trouble in their own house, may inherit no tangible family legacy, but will receive the wind or Spirit of God to meet all their needs.” This is a possible reading, since the text does not say, “Those who trouble their house will inherit nothing at all.” Receiving God’s Spirit is the greatest treasure, the gift of life from the Father.



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However, this reading of “wind” as the Holy Spirit (reading backward from the New Testament) is a bit of a stretch. It really does not fit with the second part of the proverb, speaking of the cost of foolishness. Family troubles cause financial upheavals, even among multi-billionaires (without naming any names).

A Sad Ending

Unwise, unruly, or discontented men can do immeasurable harm to a family or a church community. These are the men who pick unnecessary fights. They impose unreasonable measures on their own families, and stir up unhealthy emotions in all those around them. Such men do not manage their own households well, and will no doubt see their family legacies dissipate into divorce, economic bankruptcy, teenage rebellion, and general ignominy. After a lifetime of heartache, what a tragedy to find some of these men abandoned by their families and dying alone, perhaps even euthanized in a government-subsidized rest home for the elderly and indigent! He that troubles his house inherits the wind.¹

OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND

Jesus did not trouble His own house.

Jesus did not trouble His earthly home, since He submitted to His parents' wishes as an adolescent (Luke 2:51) and as a young man—to age 30. Although rejected prior to His resurrection by His earthly brothers, He perfectly fulfilled His earthly father's wishes, doing only those things of which His Heavenly Father approved (John 5:30, 8:28).

And Jesus will inherit all things in Heaven and on Earth (Ephesians 1:10).

APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Try to keep peace within your family as much as possible.
- Use your will as your final teaching and training tool for instructing your children in financial matters. (e.g. testamentary trusts, spendthrift clauses.)
- Make sure you have a will documented. Do not let government or state legislation direct your assets after your death.

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take now? Ask Him.



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KEY WORDS

consumption, estate, folly, house, inheritance, integrity, less assets (quantity), servant, trouble, wise, bf sharing

ILLUSTRATION

Who is Self-Centered Sam?



Self-Centered Sam looks out for number one. Who's that? It's Sam, of course! Sam doesn't consider himself to be self-centered. One of his favourite books is ["The Richest Man in Babylon."](#)

What does Sam do with his income? The cream, the very best goes to his own long-term growth fund. His motto is 'pay yourself first.' Some call him Stingy Sam. But he's not stingy; he's just making careful preparation for his own future, comfort, and well-being. He is part of the "me" generation. He typifies the Maslow's hierarchy of needs with self-actualization as apex of all values. Sam is a dedicated humanist. He doesn't recognize any higher power than himself. He's a tough negotiator.

Sam doesn't ignore charity. But how could he possibly help anyone one else unless there was something in it for him? Therefore any and all charitable donations must have full and public credit given to the donor. The more people are aware of his generosity the better. After all, a little bit of advertising is good for business. When his corporation gives a gift it comes as a percentage of profits, not revenues.

His financial hero is the multi-millionaire, whose assets once exceeded the entire US treasury:



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The great Railroad and Steamship Baron [Cornelius Vanderbilt](#).



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FOOTNOTES

1. Generations Family Devotional December 31, 2021.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#search/11%3A29/FMfcgzGmtFDpwLmdgSCXlrVTWgvtwxM>

