



**Looking Ahead**  
**Proverbs 27:12**  
**Message from Pastor Martin Hawley**  
**September 24, 2017**

**Idea: When you see trouble coming, don't ignore it. Do something. A misstep will result in a mishap.**

**Introduction:**

We've all had to dig ourselves out of holes we've dug. I've talked to lots of people who are trying to dig themselves out of situations they created for themselves – usually financial (too much debt) or relational (bad marriage).

Did we see it coming? Did anyone warn us? Usually, the answer is a resounding “Yes!”. But, we ignore it. We figure it will work out. We end up exactly where we did not want to be, and suddenly, life is so complicated. We complicate our own lives by failing to act.

How do we keep this from happening again?

**Scripture: The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.**  
**-- Proverbs 27:12**

There are two kinds of people.  
There are two responses.  
There are two outcomes.

Each faced the same situation.

What they have in common is that on their paths there were things that hinted at danger.

The prudent and wise person evaluates everything within the context of the future. They see the larger context. They see danger coming and act.

The simple and naïve person sees no broader context than the moment and events are disconnected from each other. They see danger and ignore the warnings.

The simple always suffer harm because of their inaction.

### **Application:**

**Never evaluate anything based on where it is. Always evaluate where it's moving.**

This applies to relationships, finances, and everything else in life.

If you started at point A, and now you are at point B, you have a good idea of where it is headed.

The prudent person doesn't respond to where the relationships is. He responds to where it is heading. He looks ahead.

### **The Process Always Involves ...**

#### **Action:**

You are going to have to DO something. You are going to have to make some changes. This is going to involve prayer, but it will not be limited to prayer.

#### **Sacrifice:**

There will be sacrifice in relationships, reputation, and resources.

#### **Embarrassment:**

In many cases, you will not be understood, and you won't have an opportunity to explain yourself. People will probably think you are overreacting.

#### **Relief:**

What you gain by being prepared will turn your sacrifice into an investment. There are no regrets for those who read the warnings and act appropriately.

#### **Prayer:**

**“Lord, help me to see trouble coming long before it gets here, and give me the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it.”**

#### **Conclusion:**

Be honest. Where do you see trouble coming? What are you going to do about it?

#### **Pray:**

Take action. Take refuge. Do something extreme. Break up. Quit. Fire him. Change your number. Move. Sell the house. Get rid of the Internet. Cut up your credit cards. See a counselor.

There will come a time when you will have no good options. Act now!

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

**Memorize: Proverbs 27:12.**

**Pray: Lord, help me see trouble coming long before it gets**

#### **NEXT WEEK-Destinations: Lean Not**

We don't just need information.

What is the key to making great decisions? Most people would likely agree that having the right information is crucial to making decisions. But while information is very important, it is not the most critical factor in guaranteeing you make the right choice. In fact, if you think about it, you know some really smart people who have made really dumb decisions. So what is it? In this message we'll look at something that is even more important than information when it comes to choosing your path.

**here, and give me the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it.**

**Take action: Take refuge.**

**Return next week for Destinations, Part 3: Lean Not.**