**Don’t be the Fool**

1 Corinthians 1:20 "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

Many people will try and use science to discredit what is in the Bible but the truth of the mater is that much of science is a guessing game. We are always finding new science to discredit the old. Many things that were discredited in the Bible in the past have now been found to be true through things like archeology.

Sort of like when Jesus told his followers in John 6:54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

We are told in John 6:66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

What Jesus said made no sense to many of His followers so they walked away. looking back now we understand he was talking about communion. So, why would Jesus say this knowing many of his followers would leave?

In Matthew 7:6 Jesus said in Do not give that which is holy to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before the swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn around and tear you in pieces

* What is Jesus talking about here? Is He saying not to share the Gospel with the Lost?

Lets looks at some examples:

The Lord gave Joseph a dream when he was just a young boy and showed him that one day his brothers would bow before him. He was so excited that he told them all about it, but they became angry with Him. Joseph was already the favorite son in the family, and now this. "Who does he think he is? He is just a boy and our younger brother."

Genesis 37:4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, and they hated him, and couldn't speak peaceably to him. Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brothers, and they hated him all the more.

Joseph traveled a long hard road before he saw that dream come to reality. He was sold into slavery, then falsely accused of attempted rape, then had to serve time in prison. Yet at God's appointed time, when it was supposed to happen, the dream came to pass and his brothers were bowing down before him. No one could stop Joseph's dreams from coming true, and all attempts to prevent his dream from becoming reality, actually caused it to actually happen.

This is a good example of where we need to be careful sharing the things that God has told us with the wrong people.

Hang onto to your dreams, remember them, write them in a journal, and be careful who you share them with. There will always be those that want you to fail and to keep you beneath them, or want you to follow the path they are on. When you start to rise up, they will try to bring you back down and like the real police, anything that you tell them can, and will be used against you.

Matthew 11:25 5 At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

* God hides things from those who think themselves wise, and are stuck in their ways, and shares them with those who are like children and willing to learn.
* If you think you already know all that is in the Bible and that God has nothing new to say to you, then you are right and God will withhold sharing anything new. But if you open yourself to reading scripture, and ask God to show you new things, He will!

­­­1 Corinthians 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

* God will use the foolish and week to carry out his plan.
  + fishermen, tax collectors, shepherds
  + A small Shepperd boy killing a Giant and becoming King
  + A small group of 300 men to defeat a massive army
  + A baby born in manger saves the world

Proverbs 18:2"A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart."

* Fools don’t want to hear the truth they just want to express their opinion. They want every one to follow them whether they are right or wrong.
* Have you ever tried to explain something to someone who just doesn’t want to hear it? (be careful that you are not playing the part of the fool that delights in hearing your own voice. See next line)

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise." Proverbs 12:15

* Fools always think they are right and won’t take advise from anyone
* We should always pray and ask God for advice before offering our advice to anyone. (I am not so good at this – I like to fix things)

**If you think about it, there is a fine line between trying to give advice that the other person doesn’t want to hear and Not wanting to listen to the advice the other person is trying to give, because you think you are right.**

Always base your advice on scripture and then you will know it is true, but even if it is true, **don’t force it on anyone** and be willing to listen to their point of view.

**🡪You are more likely to win someone over to your side if you are willing to listen and understand theirs!**

So, if we go back to the beginning and address the question I asked: Is God saying not to share the Gospel with the Lost?

Absolutely Not. We should always be willing to share the Gospel but if the person we are sharing with does not want to hear it then we should do as it says in:

Matthew 10:14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.

WARNING: But be careful about calling anyone a fool

Matthew 5:22 ….And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

**But wait, there is More**

Proverbs 28:26 "Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe."

* Don’t always think you are the smartest person in the room – seek the wisdom of others

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness'; and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'"

* Don’t always think the wisest person is the oldest, best looking, most athletic, loud talking, full of pride, sure in their action’s person. See the advice of the soft talking humble person.

1 Corinthians 2:14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

* If you think the Bible contains no wisdom, don’t understand what it is saying and do not seek what is in it to help you: then maybe the Spirit is not in you.

Psalm 53:1 "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'

* If someone does not believe in God don’t trust their advice

Romans 1:20-22 "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **Professing to be wise, they became fools..."**

* We should be able to clearly see God in the wonders of this world and the universe we live in.

1 Corinthians 1:18 "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.'

* In the end the only truth we need to know is the message of the cross all other wisdom will be destroyed

We need to remember:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because **the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."**

* God knew that the message, of one man dying for the sins of the world, would sound like foolishness to the self-proclaimed wise but those who will lay down their pride and wisdom to except this truth will have eternal life

1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God**; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

* Once we freely give up what we think we know in the world God opens our eyes to the truth

**(Also see “Putting God in a Box)**