

## Wisdom's Silence

### Description

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Proverbs 10:12-21

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” These are brave words shouted defiantly by a child who has been teased by others. Still, words can hurt. Gossip, slander and lies can destroy lives and reputations. Rumors and accusations, even without factual foundation, grow like weeds and choke out the truth.

When Job lost his wealth, his family and his health, he sat down in the ashes, waiting to die. His three friends came to mourn with him (Job 2:11-13). They came and sat with him in silence for seven days and nights. Then they made their mistake—they opened their mouths and began to speak. They said a lot! They alternately rebuked Job and begged him to repent; they accused him and argued with him. In the end, God condemned Job's comforters for their many words (Job 42:8).

Hurting people need the comfort of a listening ear. The best gift we can offer to others is to listen to their stories, to care enough to really hear them. Conviction and correction, if needed, will come from God.

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