

# Being Foolish with a Fool



***Ecclesiastes 10:12-20***

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**FOOLS.**



**FOOLS**

**We all know one.**

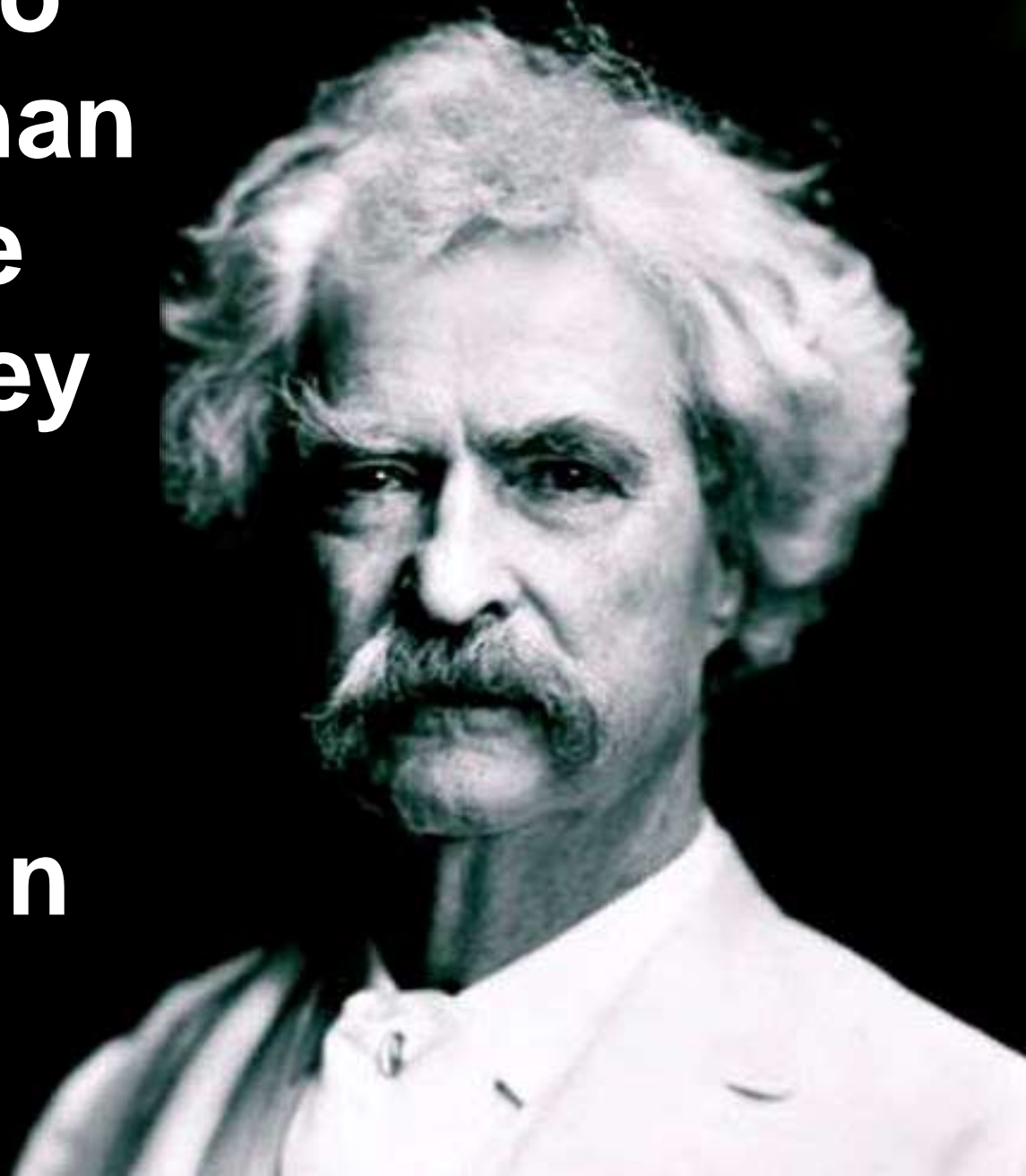


# FOOLS

**We've all been one.**

**"It's easier to  
fool people than  
to convince  
them that they  
have been  
fooled."**

**—Mark Twain**



Can you **spot** a fool?



Can you **handle** a fool?

# ***Our Study in Ecclesiastes***



**Work & Wisdom Don't Last**



**Enjoy Your Work**







**Don't underestimate relationships!**



# ecclesiastes

HOW TO WASTE YOUR LIFE

**Work & Wisdom Don't Last**

**LIVE  
WELL**

**LAUGH  
OFTEN**

**LOVE  
MUCH**

***Ecclesiastes Wisdom***



**Last Time in Ecc. 9:10–10:11**  
**Why doesn't wisdom always  
lead to success?**

I. Life is **unfair**  
(9:11–10:7).



**II. Life is uncertain  
(10:8-11).**



**Wisdom doesn't guarantee success  
because life is unfair and uncertain.**

A stone sculpture of a seated figure, possibly a philosopher or sage, with a contemplative expression. The figure is shown from the waist up, sitting on a large, textured rock. The figure's head is tilted slightly to the left, and their hands are resting on their lap. The sculpture is made of a light-colored, weathered stone. The background is dark and indistinct.

**Main Idea**





**How should we deal with a  
fool?**

# Solomon's Wisdom About Foolishness

**Wis·dom** (wiz·dam  
-dom) 1. the quality  
and following the  
knowledge, experience,  
sagacity

2. less  
Jesus,  
Solom

# Our text today (Eccl. 10:12-20)

How to **spot** a fool  
(12-19)



What to **do** about it  
(20)



**I. Description:**  
**The speech  
and actions of  
a fool are  
destructive  
(10:12-19).**

A fool's **speech** is destructive (10:12-14a).



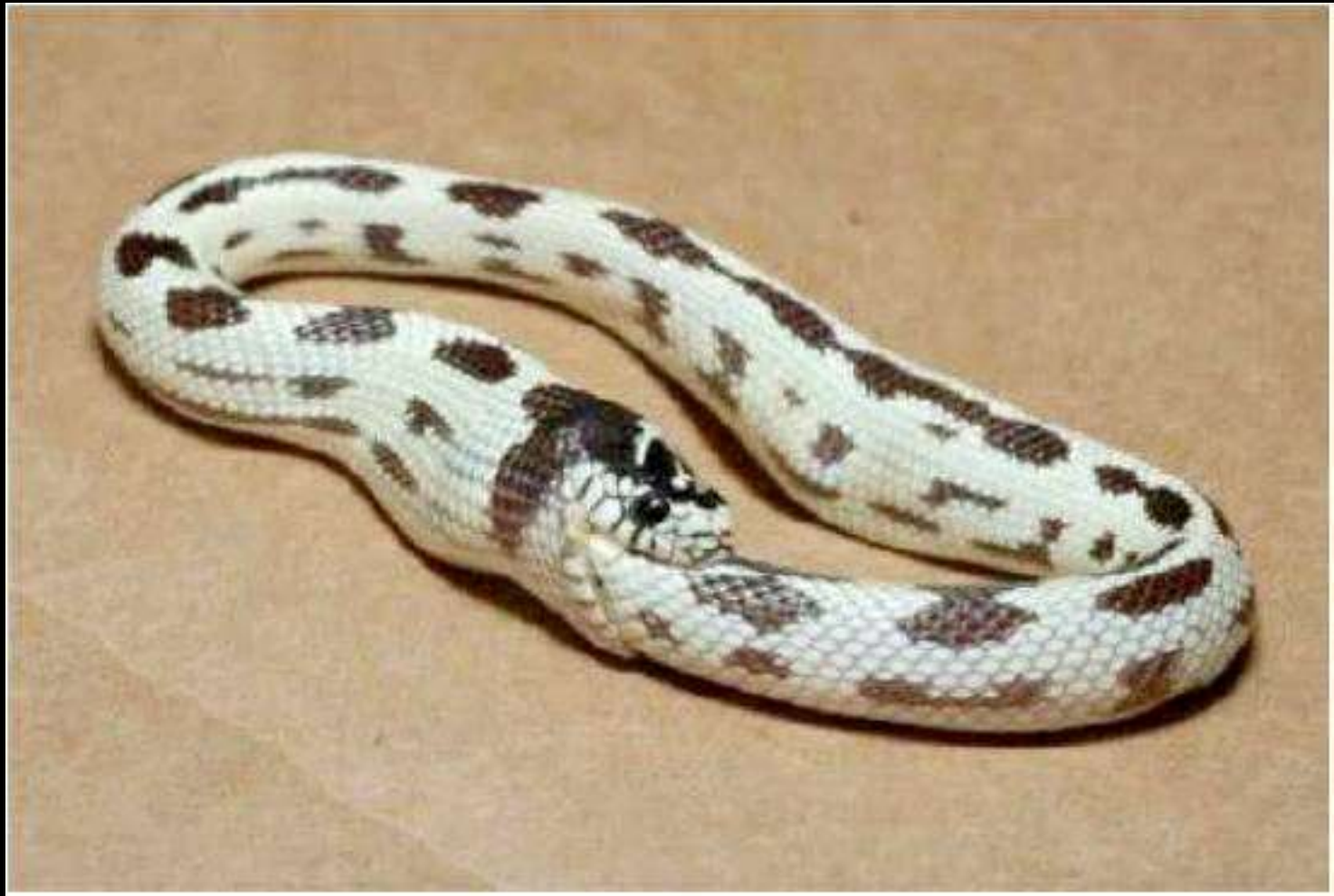
**A wise man's  
speech wins him  
favor (10:12a).**

**A fool's speech  
hurts himself  
(10:12b)**

**"Wise words  
bring approval"**

**but...**

**"fools are  
destroyed by  
their own  
words"**



**Fools hurt themselves.**

**A fool's speech hurts others (10:13-14).**





# A fool's speech hurts others (10:13-14).

**"Fools base their thoughts on foolish assumptions, so their conclusions will be wicked madness;"  
(10:13 NLT).**

**"they chatter on and on.  
No one really knows what is going to happen;  
no one can predict the future"  
(10:14 NLT).**

A fool's speech hurts others (10:13-14).

"Fools base their  
thoughts **Too much**  
foolish

assumptions, so

their **Too ignorant**  
can be wicked

madness;"

(10:13 NLT)

**Too presumptuous** (NLT).

"they chatter on  
and on.

No one really  
knows what is  
going to happen;  
no one can  
predict the future"

A fool's **work** is destructive  
(10:15-19).



**"Fools are so exhausted by a little work that they can't even find their way home" (10:15 NLT).**



**"What sorrow  
for the land  
ruled by a  
servant, the  
land whose  
leaders feast in  
the morning"  
(10:16 NLT).**

**Foolish leaders hurt  
their subordinates  
(10:16-19).**

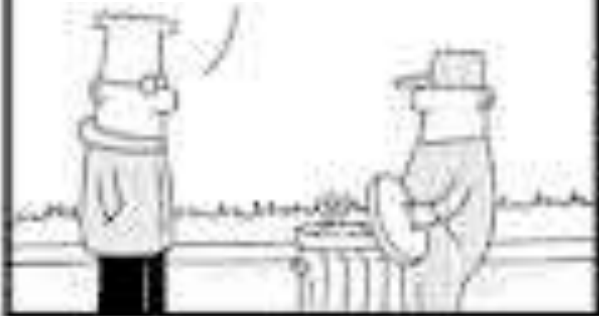


**"Hurt people hurt people"**



# We all have to deal with fools.

Why does it seem as if most of the decisions in my workplace are made by drunken lemurs?



www.dilbert.com

Decisions are made by people who have time, not people who have talent.



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Why are talented people so busy?

They're fixing the problems made by people who have time.



**"What sorrow  
for the land  
ruled by a  
servant, the  
land whose  
leaders feast in  
the morning"  
(10:16 NLT).**

**Foolish leaders hurt  
their subordinates  
(10:16-19).**

**"Happy is the  
land whose king  
is a noble leader  
and whose  
leaders feast at  
the proper time  
to gain strength  
for their work,  
not to get  
drunk"  
(10:17 NLT).**



**"Laziness leads to a sagging roof;  
idleness leads to a leaky house"  
(10:18 NLT).**

**Foolish leaders hurt  
their subordinates  
(10:16-19).**



**Fools never clean up their own messes.**



**"A party gives laughter, wine gives happiness,  
and money gives everything!" (10:19 NLT).**



**Foolish leaders hurt  
their subordinates  
(10:16-19).**

**Being a rock star shortens your  
life by 20 years**

A close-up photograph of Kurt Cobain, the lead singer of the band Nirvana, performing on stage. He has long, wavy, light-colored hair and a beard. He is wearing a dark jacket over a white t-shirt. He is singing into a black microphone on a stand. The background is dark with some blurred lights, suggesting a concert setting.

**Kurt Cobain of the Seattle band Nirvana  
performing in Seattle**

**Fools sometimes get to the top**



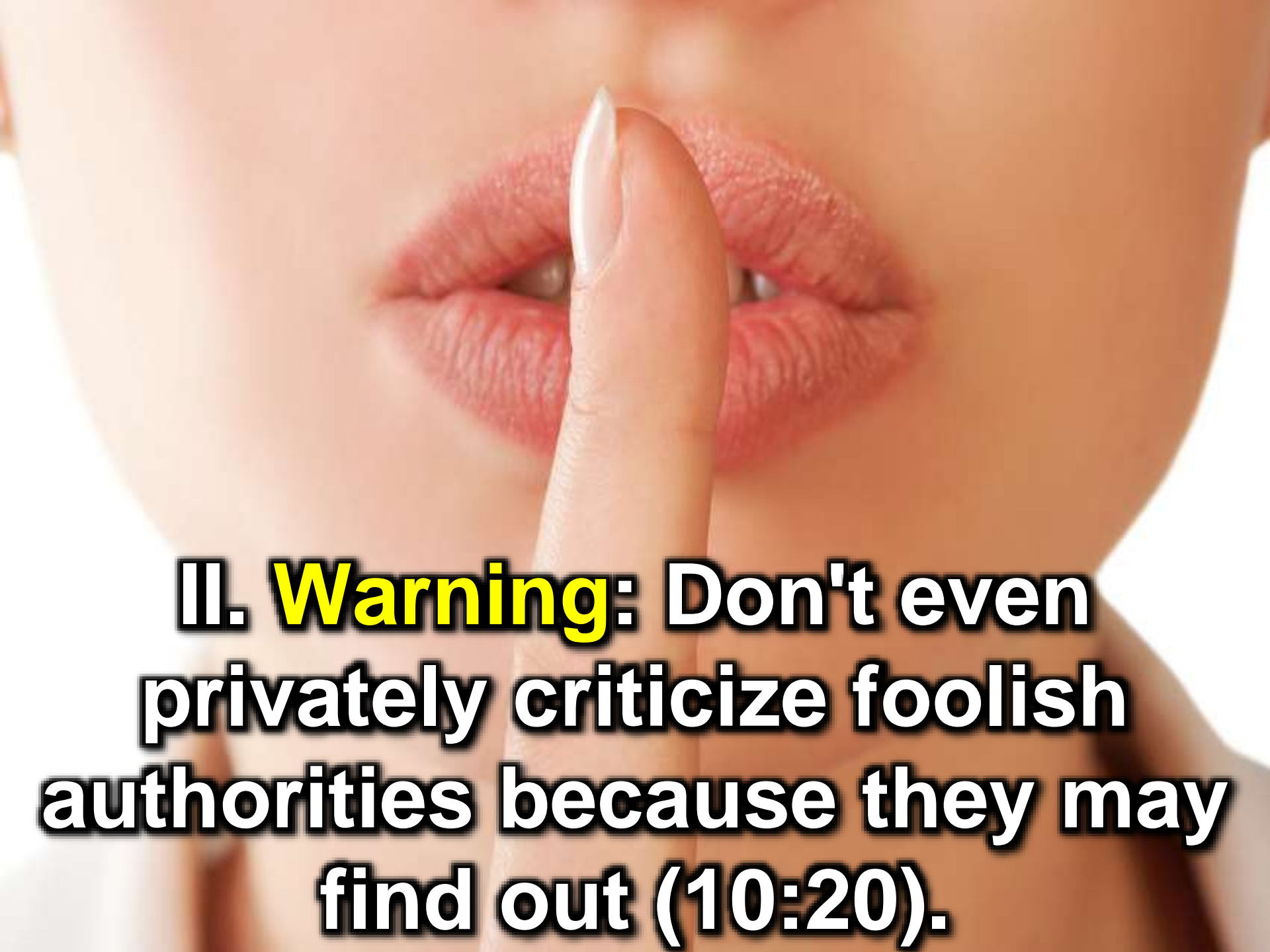


# The Post Turtle

**You know he didn't get there by himself, doesn't belong up there, and doesn't know what to do while he is up there. Everyone wonders why anyone put him up there in the first place.**



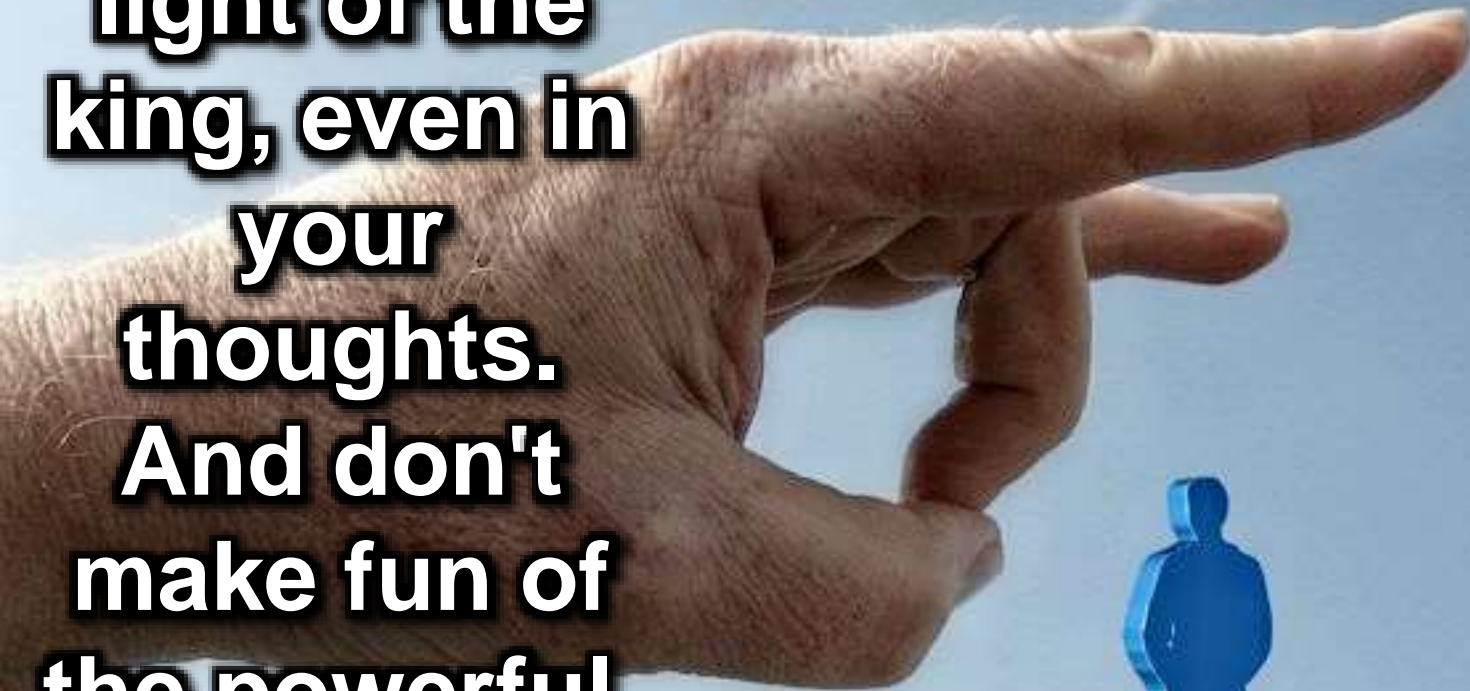
**I. Description:**  
**The speech  
and actions of  
a fool are  
destructive  
(10:12-19).**



**II. Warning:** Don't even privately criticize foolish authorities because they may find out (10:20).



**"Never make  
light of the  
king, even in  
your  
thoughts.  
And don't  
make fun of  
the powerful,  
even in your  
own  
bedroom"  
(10:20a NLT).**



**"For a little bird  
might deliver  
your message  
and tell them  
what you said"  
(10:20b NLT).**





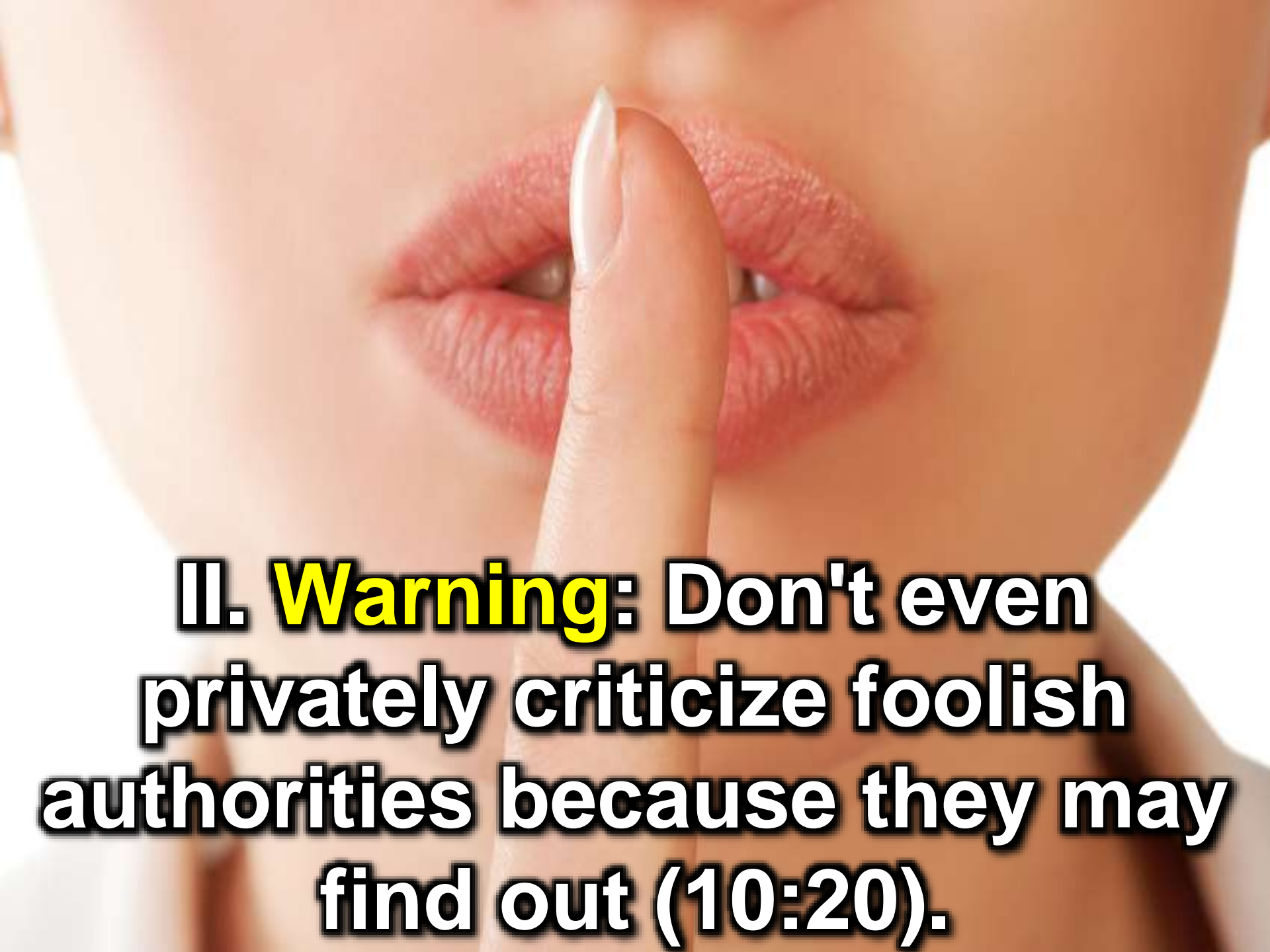
**How should we deal with a  
fool?**



**Don't criticize your foolish leader  
(Main Idea)**



**I. Description:**  
**The speech  
and actions of  
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destructive  
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**II. Warning:** Don't even privately criticize foolish authorities because they may find out (10:20).



**Have you criticized a superior?  
"It takes little size to criticize."**



**"How I hate my boss!"**



**Keep  
your cool**





**Words can hurt or heal.**

**What did your words do today?**

# Hurtful words wound





# Wise Words Heal



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