

Proverbs 6:1-5

Quagmires

Practical advice ...

- I. When You Ensnare Yourself
 - A. Bad Choices
 - B. Binding Words
 - C. Big Promises
 - D. Bad Blood

- II. Settle Matters Quickly
 - A. Good Discernment
 - B. God's Words
 - C. Gracious Resolution
 - D. Good Rapport

... for cleaning up messes.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why is it good to think before we speak?
2. What should you do if you make a promise you can't keep?
3. Does Jesus teach us to solve problems we may have between each other?

Tangled Webs

There may times in which we find ourselves in a self-imposed interpersonal quagmire. Perhaps we have done or said something that has landed us in a complicated conflict with others. We may make bad decisions and overcommit ourselves to things that turn out to be problematic and even sinful that cause tension with others. The root of the problem is lack of discernment. Sometimes we bypass plain reason and spiritual wisdom and end up foolishly involving ourselves in something we can't handle. Situations can become burdensome and twisted and sinful elements quickly creep in and rapidly multiply the longer we let things go. There may be no easy solution to our problem, but there are biblical principles we can apply in order to set things straight. One way to cut through the webs in which we entangle ourselves is to deal with our own error openly and quickly. Among the many valuable insights from God's Word that will help us proceed in a godly fashion come from Jesus when He says: *Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.* Matthew 5:25