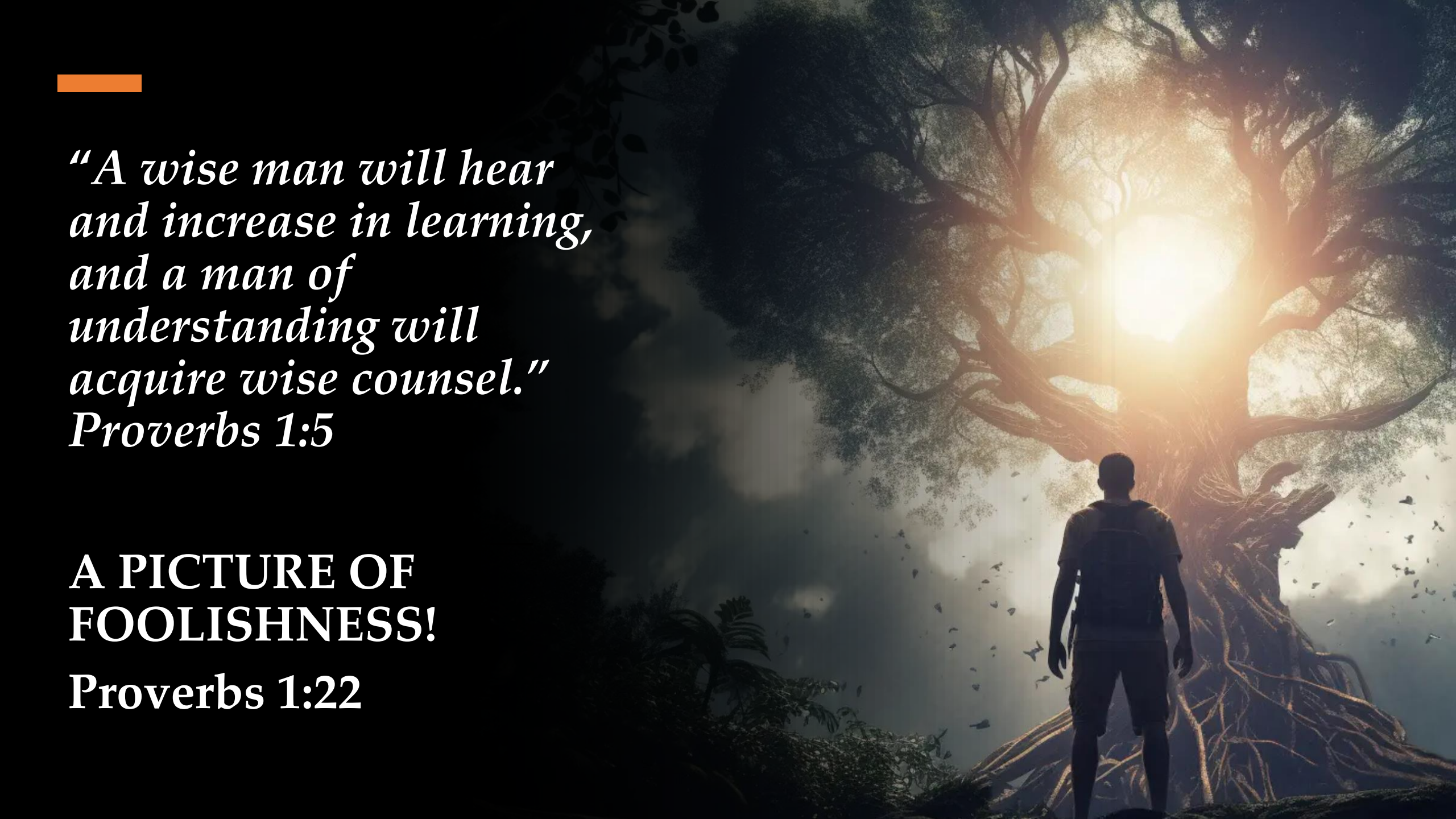


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen drifting through the air around the tree. The overall mood is one of awe, contemplation, and seeking enlightenment.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person is standing in the foreground, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. The tree's trunk is thick and gnarled, with many roots exposed. The canopy is dense and filled with leaves. A bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun or moon, is positioned directly behind the tree's trunk, creating a strong backlighting effect and illuminating the scene. The sky is dark and cloudy, with some birds visible in flight. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

*“A wise man will hear
and increase in learning,
and a man of
understanding will
acquire wise counsel.”
Proverbs 1:5*

**A PICTURE OF
FOOLISHNESS!**
Proverbs 1:22

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight streams through the dense canopy of leaves, creating a warm, golden glow. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with other foliage visible in the lower left corner. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

WISDOM

for the journey

We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

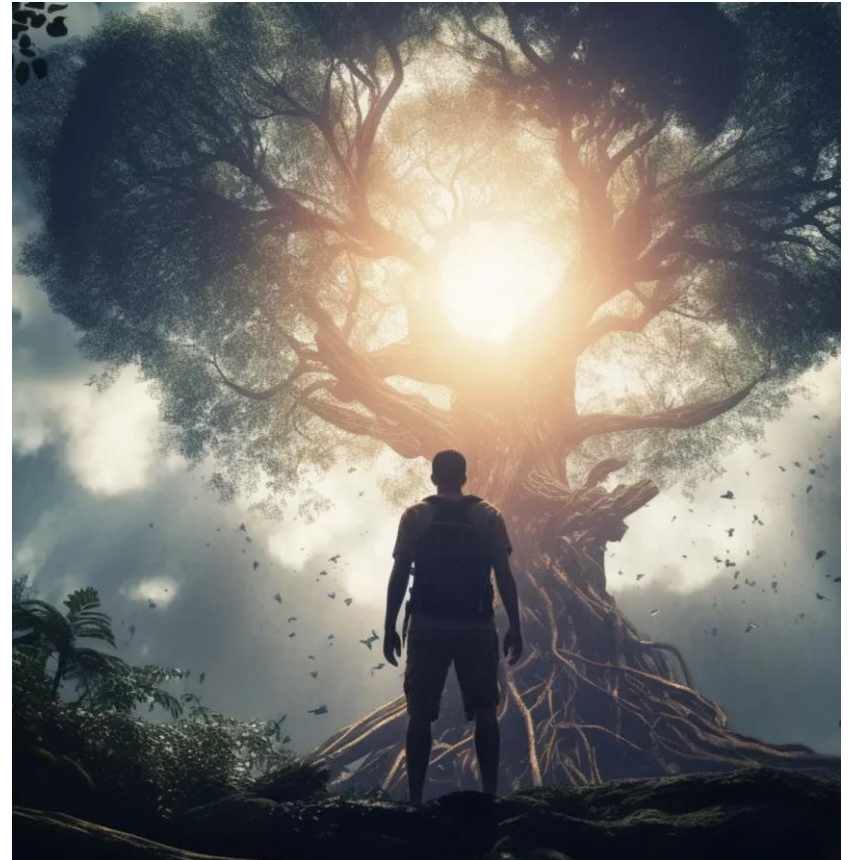
In this study, we will look and listen to hear God's voice and see his Son shining through the book of Proverbs. We will be equipped in every way for our journey!

KNOWING WISDOM – THE FOOL – THE OPPOSITE OF THE WISE MAN!

1. **FOOLISHNESS** → Fools are men so habitually out of touch with reality that they make life miserable for themselves and all around them. Fools mistreat their bodies. Fools treat others with disrespect. Fools are selfish and seek their own way. Foolishness is the denial of reality.
2. **ULTIMATE FOOLISHNESS** → Make anything the center of your life besides God. Jesus describes the “foolish man” whose home is built on sand instead of on the solid rock of Christ’s word and wisdom (Matthew 7:24-26). Fools fail to honor boundaries that are embedded in reality—physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual. Wise men live in reality.

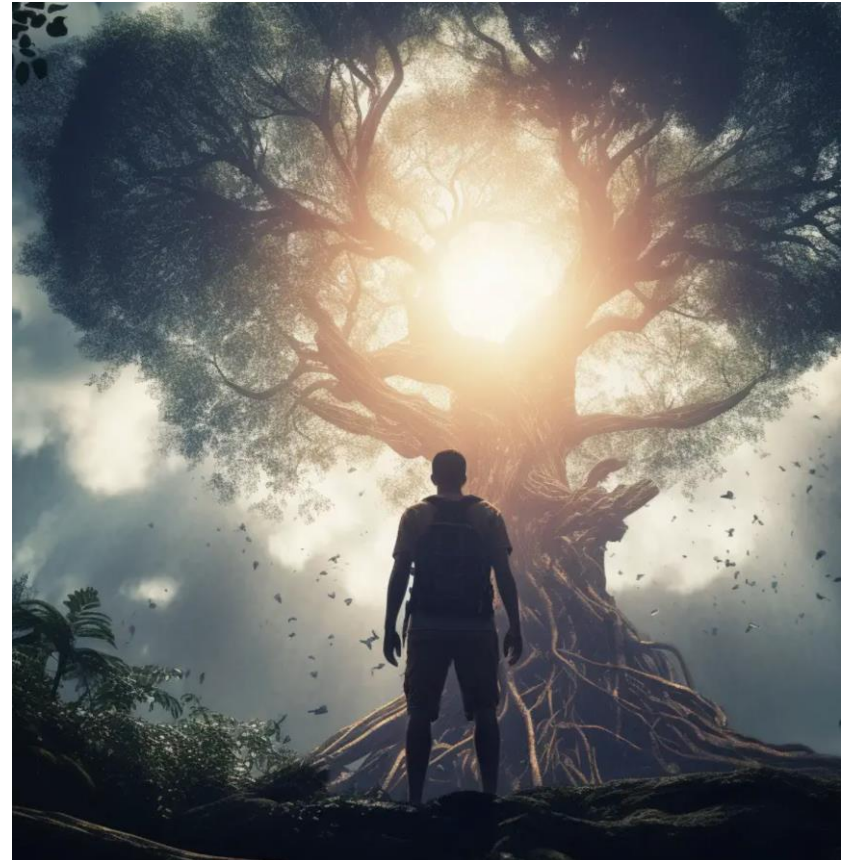
KNOWING WISDOM – MEET THE LINEUP OF FOOLS!

1. **THE MOCKER** → The man who proves it is not mental capacity but attitude that determines whether we become wise or foolish. At the root of mockers' character is a high pride that hates submitting to anyone (Proverbs 21:24). To "sit in the company of mockers (Psalm 1:1) is to make cynicism and sneering a habitual response. Habitual mocking will harden you and poison relationships. We must resist the enormous cultural pressure to become mockers. When have you been tempted to roll your eyes and dismiss someone rather than engaging with them? We are to despise no one and respect everyone, even if we are correcting them.



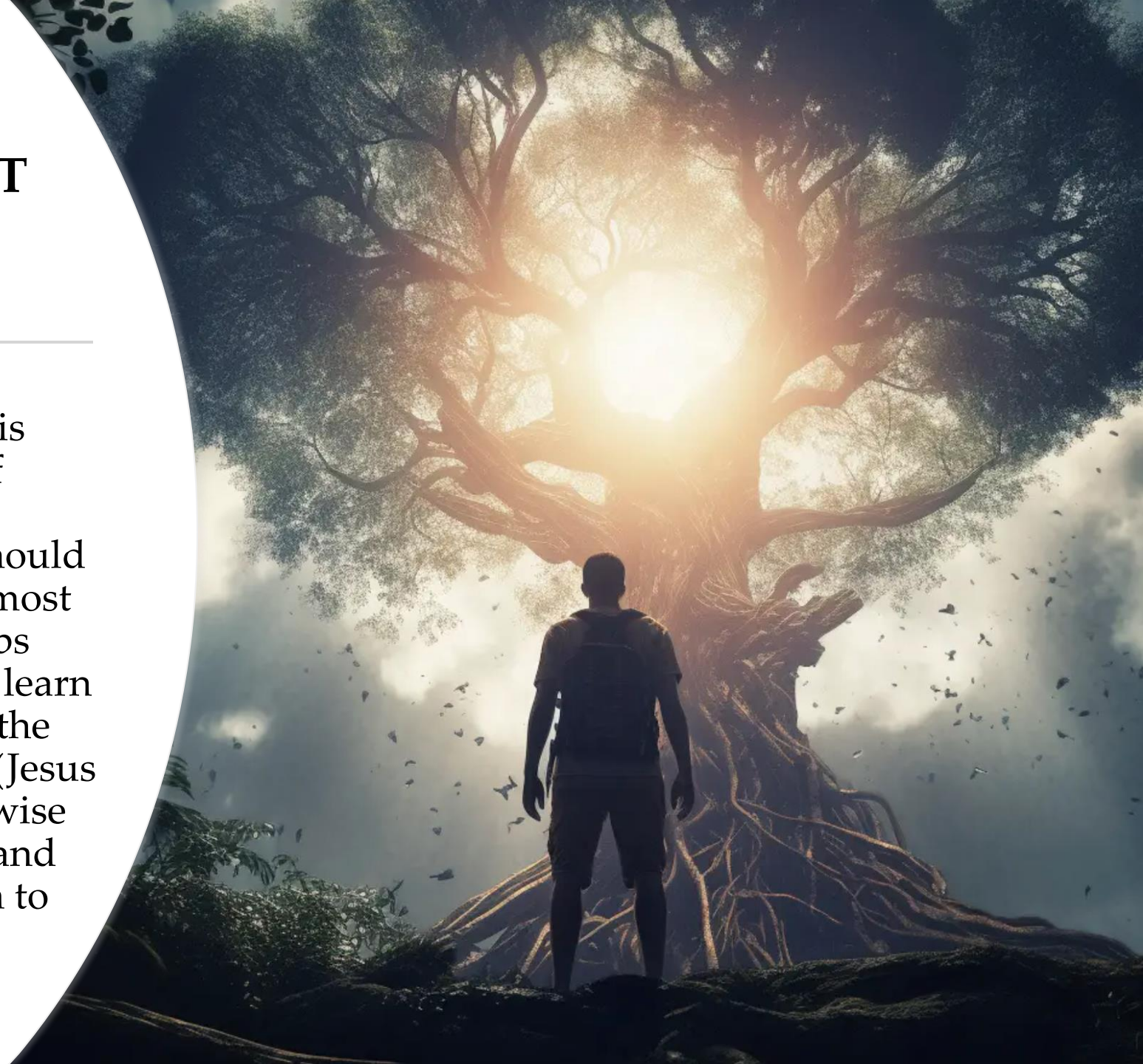
KNOWING WISDOM – MEET THE LINEUP OF FOOLS!

2. THE SIMPLE → This kind of foolishness is gullibility (Proverbs 14:15). They are too easily led and influenced. They are easily impressed, may need approval too much, and be easily overtaken by Big Personalities. They can be intellectually lazy, not wanting to check out a matter. They are easy targets for get-rich-quick schemes (Proverbs 12:11). The wise man will think things out and do the research/study before he decides.



KNOWING WISDOM – MEET THE LINEUP OF FOOLS!

3. THE OBSTINATE → This is the most common fool mentioned in Proverbs. He is opinionated and not open to new ideas of criticism. We are naturally obstinate and unwise. Modern culture insists that we should let children be themselves, but that feels most natural to us might be disastrous (Proverbs 22:15). To become wise, the anxious must learn to be bolder, the bold to be cautious, and the chronically sunny to be more thoughtful (Jesus model in John 11:23-25, 32-35). To be the wise man is to know exactly when to be quiet and when to speak, when to correct and when to affirm.





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. When has your pride and arrogance moved you toward a position of being one up and caused you to fail?
2. When have you been naïve and gotten burned?
3. When have you refused to ask for help and brought failure to your life?