

Mishlei 11-06

Ingratitude

Key Concepts

In Mishlei 11-03 we have seen how *yashrus* (fair-mindedness) encourages a person to be grateful for favors and kindnesses. Thus, its opposite is disloyalty or ingratitude. People who display it are called *bogdim* (traitors). Such people allow themselves free license to bring harm to others. But they themselves now suffer the consequences.

Exploring Mishlei

(ו) צְדָקַת יִשְׂרָיִם תַּצִּילֵם וּבְהוֹת בְּגָדִים יִלְכְּדוּ:

(6) *The righteousness of the fair-minded will rescue them, but the ungrateful will be trapped in their own false schemes.*

The first part of this proverb teaches that *tzidkus* (righteousness) rescues the *yesharim* from any negative consequences of holding on to their principles.

The second part contrasts the *yesharim* with the *bogdim* who suffer the consequences of their own abandonment of principle.

Learning Mishlei

(6) The righteousness — צְדָקַת
of the fair-minded — יִשְׂרָיִם
will rescue them — תַּצִּילֵם

from any negative consequences of holding on to their principles.

But in their own schemes — וּבְהוֹת
will the ungrateful — בְּגָדִים
who try to take personal advantage
be trapped — יִלְכְּדוּ

Additional Insights

THE FAIR-MINDED

(1) The fair-minded person recognizes, appreciates, and chooses fair-mindedness (*yashrus*) even when it causes him trouble. He is devoted to the truth and is prepared to defend it. (רבינו יונה)

(2) The *tzidkus* of the *yashar* will save him from harm that might he come about through his choice of *yashrus*. (רבינו יונה)

THE UNGRATEFUL

(3) The *bogdim* who are supported by falsehood will be caught by the false schemes, with which they intended to harm others. (רבינו יונה, חנוך לנער)

(4) The *bogdim* who rely on their intelligence to choose an option that is not in conformance with the laws of the Torah will be caught in their own trap. (מצודות)