

Loft Underground  
What the Hell – Part Three  
Escape

Have you ever felt trapped? Being unable to escape is perhaps one of our greatest fears and we tend to remember very distinctly those times we have felt cornered.

Without over-thinking – write down instant reactions to the verse below:

“You snakes! You brood of vipers!  
How will you escape being condemned to hell?  
– Matthew 23:33

Describe how you might feel if Jesus were directing these words to you.

### Evil's Desire to Trap Us

On evil's agenda is the desire to trap us. Take a look at these sayings from Proverbs. How are these verses offering us advice to avoid getting trapped by evil?

Proverbs 29:3

*A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father,  
but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.*

Ecclesiastes 7:12

*Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter,  
but the advantage of knowledge is this: that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor.*

Proverbs 14:30

*A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*

Now let's reverse one of the verses above – rewrite one of the above Proverbs but put the antonym (opposite) for each positive/negative word. For example, 'a heart at conflict...' for the last one.

Looking at the one you just wrote in reverse, have you seen an example in your life (personal, the news, etc...) where you have seen the negative proverb in action?

What was it?

What were the effects?

### Jesus at His Harshest

As we have seen, Matthew 23 contains some of Jesus' harshest words. The chapter opens up by telling us that the words are directed to the 'disciples' and the 'crowds'. Read the entire chapter from the point of view of each and write in the column what comes to mind as you read. Let's assume a disciple is a believer in Jesus and 'the crowds' are skeptics

Disciples

Crowd

### A Verse to Memorize for the Week

Repeat the verse below until you have it memorized. See if it helps you throughout the week!

*Our God is a God who saves,  
from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.  
- Psalm 68:20*