Plant Anger; Grow a Fool
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. Prov. 3:35, 12:16, 29:11
B. The Bible is a book of examples: some are patterns, others are warnings.
   1. 1Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4; 1Cor. 11:1
C. Fools’ examples can teach powerful lessons to those who desire to be wise

I. AHITHOPHEL: ANGER LEADS TO SELF-DESTRUCTION
A. 2Sam. 15:12, 31-34, 37, 16:20-23, 17:1-23
B. Ahithophel was a trusted advisor to King David; his judgment was highly respected by all - 2Sam. 16:23
C. However, he gave himself bad advice, deserted David, and followed Absalom in his rebellion.
D. On one occasion, Absalom sought and rejected his advice; Ahithophel went home and hanged himself - 2Sam. 17:23
E. Do people in the church ever overreact when things don’t go the way they think they should?
F. Do people in the church ever hurt themselves to make a point?

II. NABAL: ANGER LEADS TO DISHONOR
A. 1Sam. 25:5-17
B. Nabal began with the premise that he was right and that David was wrong
   1. This most often afflicts men, but women can succumb. They believe that their concept of what is fair and right is the only correct way
   2. They insist on their way; anyone who disagrees is wrong and becomes the object of their anger
   3. They treat dishonorably those who have earned their respect; thus, by dishonoring others temporarily, they damage their own honor long term
C. He refused to show respect and gratitude to David for the protection and leadership he provided.
   1. Do some professed Christians fail to respect spiritual leaders?
   2. 1Thes. 5:12-13; 1Tim. 5:19; Eph. 6:2; 1Peter 2:17

III. SANBALLAT: ANGER LEADS TO DEFEAT
A. Neh. 4:1-15
   1. Anger moves one to talk like a fool - 1-2
   2. Anger draws in other fools - 3
   3. Anger makes one act like a fool - 7-8
   4. Anger makes one to make a fool's threats - 12
   5. Anger makes one look like a fool - 15
B. Angry people are a danger to themselves and others - Prov. 22:24-25, 29:22
   1. How do you react when angry? - Ecc. 7:9; Eph. 4:26; Psalm 4:4, 37:8