**Proverbs 28:6-9**

**Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.**

**Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.**

**He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.**

**He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**

Uprightness. Law-keeping. It’s the sort of thing we’re supposed to embrace as Christians, although it doesn’t sound like much fun. Riotous company and riches, on the other hand, sound like a pretty good time! But verse 6 here says that being poor and walking with uprightness is “better” than being rebellious and rich. Do we really believe this? In what way is it “better”? Law-keeping, according to verse 7, helps us avoid shaming our parents. So “better” for our parents, but that can’t be the whole story. Verse 8 gives the solemn warning that those who are dishonest are only gathering riches that will be turned over to someone else. Perhaps that doesn’t sound so great after all! Even worse, those who disdain the law have nowhere to turn when things begin to go badly. When God considers you speaking to Him as an abomination, you are surely without any sympathetic ear. That doesn’t sound pleasant at all.

**Honey Badgers**

Honey badgers, native to Africa and parts of Asia, have few natural predators because of their thick skin, strength, and ferocious defensive abilities. The very largest honey badgers (big African males) weigh no more than 35 pounds, but they are absolutely terrifying. Honey badgers are known to savagely and fearlessly attack almost any other species whenever necessary. Bee stings, porcupine quills, and animal bites rarely penetrate their skin. A group of honey badgers reportedly drove seven lions from their kill, and these indomitable little creatures are known to drive off hyenas as well. In addition to being fearless, aggressive, and strong, honey badgers are also extremely clever—and they’re tool-users. All of which brings us to Stoffel, a honey badger who resides at the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Africa. He began life as an ill-advised pet, but he was turned over to the center as he quickly became unmanageable. Being human-bonded, he began breaking into the house where the center’s director lives with his wife. (He repeatedly breaks windows and then goes through the refrigerator.) Then he began to terrorize the other animals at the center, even killing an adult tawny eagle. He was placed in a large enclosure (a quarter hectare) only to learn how to open (both) latches. Then he broke INTO the lion enclosure by digging under the fence, whereupon he attacked the (large male) lion. The first time, Stoffel won the fight, but he was injured when he broke in for the second time. He broke out and went for the lions again as soon as he recovered. Eventually, the center was sponsored by the Rotary Club to build a brick enclosure. But Stoffel still uses anything and everything inside his enclosure to break out and wreak havoc. Stoffel, being human-bonded, cannot safely be released to the wild. The walls are there to protect him from himself and his peculiar lion fixation, but Stoffel does everything he can to get past those walls. The law is like those walls. It’s there to protect us from ourselves. We can only be safe (and happy) within the security of God’s law. But, like Stoffel, we persist in breaking out, even though we can never have contentment or safety outside.

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Honey Badgers: Masters of Mayhem

Start: 29:37 (23:21 from End)

End: 34:08 (18:50 from End)