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Description automatically generatedProverbs Chapter 7 (Lesson #8)**

Final Warnings From the Father About the Forbidden Woman

By way of reminder, the book of Proverbs is broken into multiple sections. We are still in that **first section.** The first section starts inchapter 1 and goes all the way to chapter 9. In it we have **ten speeches** or **ten appeals** from a **Father to his sons**.

Also in the first section are **four appeals** or four **monologues**, where **wisdom is personified as a lady**, we will call her **lady wisdom**. Here in chapters 1-9 lady wisdom speaks to us **four separate times**.

Today as we come to chapter 7 we come to the father’s **tenth and final speech**.

### This is the forth (2:16-19, 5:1-23, 6:20-35) and climatic warning from the father to his sons about the forbidden woman. In chapters 5 and 6 Solomon has had a great deal to say about the forbidden woman. To remind you of some of the things the Father has already said to his sons:

**Prov. 5:3** For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil,

One of the ways she seduces is via her speech. But it is not just her speech.

**Prov. 6:25** Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;

Notice, Solomon does not say the forbidden woman is ugly, quite often the opposite is true, another weapon she often uses is her beauty. But you and I are not to be tricked by her tongue or her looks.

In fact, Solomon was clear: Prov. 5:4-5 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. 5Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol;

### We will stop there, but in our last two lessons Solomon has said a number of things about the Forbidden Woman.

### This month we come to this final speech from the father, and it is the most passioned of them all. You will hear the father nearly begging his son to live by wisdom and to steer well clear of the Forbidden Woman!

### Here in the father’s final plea, we find a narrative in verses 6-20, it is the story of a simple-minded youth (a foolish youth) who is drawn into the clutches of the forbidden woman.

### The father likens what happens to this simple-minded youngster as to what happens to animals when they are captured and taken.

### Then the narrative stops abruptly in verse 23 with the Father making his final pleas in verses 24-27.

### This story is meant to speak well beyond our intellect right to our hearts.

### Before we start, I want to share with you a story from Daniel Akin’s Commentary on this section where he writes: “A few years ago a pastor friend of mine walked away from his wife and children for a woman on his staff. When he was confronted about his sin, his response was, “I know it’s wrong, but I’m going to do it anyway. I know that God will forgive me.” Akin goes on to say: This was obviously devasting to his wife, his children, and his church. It was heartbreaking, but it did not happen overnight. The pastor had developed a problem with porn at the age of twelve. There were times when it was worse than others. There were times when he got caught, repented, sought counseling, and seemed to be freed from it. But something that started out small as a few looks at a magazine as a boy ended up destroying his family and ministry.

### Solomon is so emphatically warning his sons, and through him God is so emphatically warning you and I because the forbidden woman is a direct rival to the Father and to follow her is to reject Lady Wisdom. A beautiful picture of Jesus Himself.

### OK, the stage is set, lets get running!

### Final Warnings From the Father About the Forbidden Woman

### Vs 1-5 Introduction

**7:1**My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; **2**keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;

The first thing that captures our attention is the repetition of “keep” in vss 1-2 and you will see it again in vs 5:

Vs 1 – **Keep my words**

Vs 2 – **Keep my commandments**

Vs 2 – **Keep my teaching**

For in so doing

Vs 5 – It will **keep you from the forbidden woman!**

**Here we find this repeated motif of the book.** **Keep my words, keep my commandments, keep my teaching…**

**Vs 1 -** Keep my commandments and live.

**Vs 2 -** Keep my teaching as the apple of your eye. **The Septuagint says, keep my teaching as the pupil of your eye. That is what the Hebrew is getting at!**

**3**bind them (teaching and/or commandments) on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Bruce Waltke tells us that binding them on our fingers is the idea of memorizing and recalling God’s teaching.

Write (my commandments) on your heart. **How in the world do we do that? For the Christian, this is part of regeneration, for the initial Hebrew audience this had to be a mystery of sorts.**

**But for the Hebrew commentator, surely the recognized a day when God would do this:**

**31**“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, **32**not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. **33**For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34**And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jer 31:31-34, ESV).

Here is what is awesome, this is part of the New Covenant, if you have placed faith in Christ, God has written his laws on your heart!

**4**Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call insight your intimate friend,

Here we see **multiple women** who are each showing us **large concepts**.

Look at **wisdom like she is a sister.**

Refer to **insight** as a **beloved intimate friend**.

**5**to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words.

Walking in wisdom, walking with Lady Wisdom, walking with Jesus in the details of our lives will keep us from the forbidden woman.

She is not simply a harlot, she is a married woman, she is an adulteress.

Once again Solomon warns. Her lips are smooth as oil, her words of flattery are as slick as oil.

So why do you think the father is once again warning about the forbidden woman? Because this is an area where men struggle.

A shared with you how Daniel Akin opened his commentary.

In a recent study of **conducted by Psychology Today**, they found that men were much more likely to engage in sexual infidelity than women.

In another study conducted this year, the researchers reported that a little over 25% of the men surveyed indicated that they had **cheated on their spouse at some time.**

Why does the Father keeping talking about this issue with his son, **because male sexuality is a problem area for men.**

God has provided us with wisdom to keep us from folly and all the destruction that can come along with it!

**Now God can forgive anything, but we should not presume on his forgiveness, rather we should follow his directions.**

**Vs 6-10 The Lesson**

**6**For at the window of my house I have looked out through my lattice, **7**and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense,

“Of my house” separates the father’s home, from the women prowling on the streets. He saw the young man and he saw her, as he looked out the lattice of his home.

The father says: I looked out my window and saw a foolish young man, I looked among the young men and saw a **very foolish young man.**

He was a young man who lacked sense. He was operating the opposite of **חָכְמָה‎ (*khok-maw)*.**

**8**passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house

So in context it appears this young man is passing along the street, near **her** corner, the corner near the forbidden woman’s house, and he turns and takes the road that **leads to her house**.

He is clueless to the spiritual danger that lies down this street.

The father has warned, do not even get close, stay away… But this foolish lad takes the bait, walks down the street, he begins to dance close to the flame.

**9**in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness.

He is doing this at the time of darkness, he is doing this **under the cover of darkness**. At the time when men should be tired from a day of work, this **young man is out looking for something different**.

The darkness of the evening **likely symbolizes the spiritual darkness** of this road and proceeding down this path.

**It has been said that sin binds as it binds…**

**10**And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.

The **forbidden woman** meets him, she is on the **prowl,** she is **lurking the streets, she runs into him** and she is **dressed as a prostitute**,

**Two points here**,

1. We have every reason to believe she is beautiful, scantily clothed, and her looks are appealing. She **draws his attention** and **stimulates his lust**, the **trap is being set!**
2. Then we are told she is **wily at heart**.

Some other translations of this word **“wiley of heart”** are Holman she has a **“hidden agenda”,** Modern English version **“subtle heart”**, NASB **“cunning heart.”** The Hebrew **literally means** she has a **guarded heart.**

The idea is in the negative. She is working to keep the young man from knowing the **true motives of her heart**. **She is deceiving and cunning as to her real intentions.**

**11**She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home;

She is loud, she is **wayward,** and her feet do not stay at home. These words in the Hebrew have a **rich sexual connotation** that is lost in the English.

She is a married woman who is **out of the house and on the street, she is wayard.**

**12**now in the street, now in the market, and at every corner she lies in wait.

She is in the street, she is in the market, she lies wait at every corner. She is **constantly on the prowl**, looking for a victim. She is a **predator** in search of prey!

**13**She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him,

She **seizes** this foolish young man; she kisses him and then she says with a bold face **(it appears to mean to make your face to look like something that is the opposite of what is really happening)**

She says to him with **bold face…**

**14**“I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows;

This is some rough Hebrew… What she seems to be saying is I have offered sacrifices, today, I have gone to the temple and paid vows.

You see, she says, today I am prayed up, I am close to God, I am in step with God.

So now…

**15**so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

I am close to God, so I have come out to meet you and now I have found you.

**16**I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen;

I have spread my couch with coverings, I have made my couch a place for you and I to spend the evening in wonton pleasure.

Her smooth speech makes the young man think he is everything to her.

Yet as we will see she has no intention of leaving her husband, she is simply out on the hunt for prey.

**17**I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

I have **perfumed by bed** with **myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon**.

She names her perfumes, which are all found in the SOS 4:14:

I have prepared everything **just for you** and **just for this moment**.

I have perfumed by bed just for you, she tells the foolish young man.

This will be a special moment between you and I.

**18**Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love.

Let us take our fill of love. Let us delight ourselves to morning.

Let us have unrestrained love all night, until morning…

Here is the problem, this is **not love**, **this is lust**, this is lust and sin with the **forbidden woman**. That is what she is offering this young man.

**19**For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey;

Notice, she is not trying to convince the **foolish lad that it is right**, only that **they will get away with it**.

The Hebrew does not actually say my husband is not at home, what she says to the youth is **the “man” is not home.**

This may point to an indifferent, uncaring, unloving attitude towards her actual husband. He is nothing, but I have done all this for you. **More flattery** to draw the foolish young man in.

No need to worry, for “the man” is off on a long journey.

**20**he took a bag of money with him; at full moon he will come home.”

He will not be back for a good long while! We will never get caught.

**21**With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him.

Much seductive speech (it is more than flattery it is flirtatious, with this provocative speech she seduces him.

With smooth talk (likely more flattery) she compels him.

**Paul would say:** **1Cor. 6:18** *n***Flee** from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

**Jesus would say:** **Matt 5:29** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.

**22**All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast **23**till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life.

Then, all at once, suddenly, like a dam breaking under the rush of water, all at once he follows her, all at once his **resistance breaks.**

And in so doing he is **(docile)** like an ox being led to the slaughter, this move is **(fatal)** like a stag that is caught fast and pieced with arrows, he is **(stupid)** like a bird openly flying into a trap.

**What a picture!**

He is going to pay the full payment for her services, **for he does not know this will cost him his life.**

**Sexual sin comes with unimaginable consequences! You can choose your sin, but…**

**Verses 24-27 – The Conclusion**

**24**And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth.

Here Solomon **stops the story**, here he pauses to bring his sons out of the story and **calls them to listen to him**.

To listen to the words of his mouth, to be attentive to his teaching.

The words from the introduction should **ring in our ears**:

Vs 1 – **Keep my words**

Vs 2 – **Keep my commandments**

Vs 2 – **Keep my teaching**

For in so doing

Vs 5 – For that will **keep you from the forbidden woman!**

**25**Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths,

Now notice, he is not simply saying do not do that.

He is saying **do not let your heart go that direction**, **do not let your emotions go that direction. Do not stray in your mind from the path.**

**Tim, I thought of you as I considered this verse.** You see the battle against sin is not won with simply “do not do that**.” We must not let our minds, emotions, or our hearts go there.**

**Rather the battle of sin is won when we guard our hearts, emotions, and minds in the positive sense, through the power of the Spirit!**

Do not stray from the path of life to “her paths.”

**26**for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng.

She has **laid low many**. Her slain is a mighty group.

The word slain here is a word that means **pierced in battle**, those **she has pierced in spiritual warfare** are many. **Do not join them!**

**27**Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

She has described her **pad** as the **pleasure palace**, but her house **leads to hell.** Her house goes to the chambers of death.

Men together I encourage us to continue to **choose God’s wisdom each day**, to **pursue Christ who is God’s wisdom personified** for that is the only thing that can hedge us from the adulteress woman.

In closing, we need to see that **flirting with women** and **pornography** (**both sins in their own right**) are also **gateway drugs** for the **grander disaster**, the **forbidden woman.**

I want to **encourage each other on the path of wisdom**, and to **pray for one another that we would live lives of wisdom for the glory of Christ Jesus**, again, the one who **Himself is the manifestation of God’s wisdom**.

I present to you Proverbs chapter 7, the final speech of the Father to his sons.