**Proverbs Chapter 6 (Lesson #7)**

**Beware of**

**Beware of Financial Indiscretion (Verses 1-5)**

The father warns his son of the dangers associated with taking on debt, even if it is for a friend. Debt can be like a trap. Don’t sign on for debt, and if you have, do all that it takes to get out of the situation. Now to be completely frank, this wasn’t really like loaning someone money, nor exactly like cosigning a loan. In modern financial terms, it was more like guaranteeing someone’s open line of credit. But we can make the closest application to co-signing for a loan, although it was bigger than that.

***6:1 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger, 2 if you are snared in the words of your mouth, caught in the words of your mouth, 3 then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into the hand of your neighbor: go, hasten, and plead urgently with your neighbor. 4 Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; 5 save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.***

So, your money is on the line for someone else. You have pledged a loan for your neighbor or a stranger. If you have given a pledge, that involves your finances being on the line, you are caught by what you have done. Go quickly and attempt to get out of this financial situation. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Beware of Laziness. (Verses 6-11)**

***6 ¶ Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. 7 Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, 8 she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.***

Here the father leads with directing his son to “Check out the ants!” Look how hard they work, look at how industrious they are, look at their diligence in storing up provisions for the future.

So, God has woven wisdom **חָכְמָה‎ (*khok-maw),***into even the smallest of creatures. If God took time to weave wisdom even in tiny creatures like ants, we should not be surprised to find wisdom woven throughout God’s creation.

Notice Solomon **juxtaposes the ant**, with the **sluggard**, the **lazy person** and he asks a rhetorical question. **How long will you lie there?** The **ant does not behave this way**, the ants are industrious, they are wise. You see **laziness** is the opposite of wisdom **חָכְמָה‎ (*khok-maw*)** it is **antiwisdom,** it is **folly!**

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**Beware of Sowing Discord. (Verses 12-19) (Two interconnected sections)**

In these verses the topic switches from the **“sluggard”** to the **“slanderer.”** The sluggard receives a great deal of criticism in the Proverbs, but the **slanderer receives even harsher criticism** from the Father.

***12 ¶ A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, 13 winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, 14 with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; 15 therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing. 16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.***

***17****I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.****18****For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.*

Slander, gossip, sowing discord among believers is a **horrible sin**, one we should invest our all, **led by the Holy Spirit, to avoid**. For those who **cannot** stay out of this lane, look at what Solomon says next!

Solomon then describes seven things are an abomination to Yahweh. This is what is called a **number parallelism**. **In a number parallelism, the emphasis is normally on the final point.** We see this in chapter 30, Amos does this with, “**for three transgression and for four**.”

Sewing discord among brothers is the **work of the devil**. To do this puts you on Satan’s team, at least for a moment. You and I must work to build the body, not tear down.

**Beware of Lust. (Verses 20-35)**

This last warning takes the form of an **individual speech**. Once again, we encounter the adulteress, the forbidden woman. Once again, Solomon provides **clear warnings to stay away from this destroyer of souls!** Do **not be fooled** there are a number of potential costs for going into the **forbidden woman**.

***20 ¶ My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching. 21 Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. 22 When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, 24 to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. 25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; 26 for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life. 27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? 28 Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; none who touches her will go unpunished. 30 People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, 31 but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house. 32 He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. 33 He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away. 34 For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge. 35 He will accept no compensation; he will refuse though you multiply gifts.***

Vs 20-21 – Here we find a repeating theme of the Proverbs. Notice we are called to keep our Lord’s commands, not to forsake our mother’s teaching. We are to bind them on your hearts, tie them like a necklace around our necks!

Further, the reproofs of discipline are the way of life for a believer:

*For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. (Heb 12:6, ESV).*

Discipline in **this life**, is the **way of life**, and the reminder that our Father loves us. This is how **God will preserve us from the evil woman** and the smooth tongue (like oil) of the **forbidden woman**!

Another graphic rhetorical question. Can a man walk on **burning coals** and **not burn his feet?** Obvious answer, to walk on burning coals will be a disaster for the great majority of us!

Do you sense **Solomon’s warning to his son?** **The modern adage, you are playing with fire fits well here!**

Vs 32-33 – But the one who goes to the forbidden woman **lacks sense**. What he is doing is **destroying himself**. He will get **wounds**, he will get **dishonor**, and his **disgrace** will not be wiped out. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Men together I encourage us to continue to **choose God’s wisdom each day**, to **encourage one another on the path of wisdom**, and to **pray for one another that we would live lives of wisdom for the glory of Christ Jesus.**