**Proverbs chapter 5 (Lesson #6)**

### Wisdom in Relationships

### We have no greater need than wisdom. How to live well in God’s good world. Regardless of what you and I are considering or looking to accomplish, we need wisdom.

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 carrying all the way to chapter 9. In it we have **ten speeches** or **ten appeals** from a **Father to his son**.

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.

The Bible and in particular the book of Proverbs says a lot about wisdom, in fact the Hebrew word translated wisdom **חָכְמָה‎ (*khok-maw)’***, is used 39 times in the book of Proverbs verses.

### Our last time together I spent a little time defining Khok-maw and how we go about getting it, so I will not repeat those things.

**I will give you my summary: T**he **wisdom that God provides** is tied to **God’s revelation**, but it is also connected to our **dependance on God** to obtain it.

**This morning we c**ome to Wisdom in our Relationships (male / female). Again, we find ourselves as a son, listing to our wise father. This is the **eighth of ten speeches from the Father. This is a long monologue or speech from the Father. It is seeming the most serious so far, and we have had some serious ones.**

### Before we open the Father’s speech I want to remind us of a couple of things:

### Frist a few words from our Savior, from the sermon on the Mount: 27“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matt 5:27-28, ESV).

### That means, we are all on level ground here. We are all guilty before God and we either enjoy God’s forgives in Christ, or we need to run to God for forgiveness in Christ, but none of us can cast a stone, we all live in glass houses, we all have blood on our hands.

### But I want God’s word to sink into our hearts so that we do not sin against God any further in this area, and I want us to be able to teach our children and grandchildren what God will teach us this morning.

### The father’s speech breaks into five main sections:

### Introduction

### The Father Explains the Destructive Power of Adultery

### The Father Exhorts His Son to Stay Clear of Adultery

### The Father Provides an Antidote to Adultery

### The Father Provides His Son with Three Important Reminders

**Introduction (1-2)**

**5:1 My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, 2that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.**

**Vs 1** - Here again, a father talking to his son. Be Attentive to my wisdom, incline your ear, tune your ear to my understanding.

Here the Father is pleading to his son, listen to my instruction!

Incline your ear, literally “stretch your ear” is **an idiom**, that we saw the last time we were together in Chapter 4, we will see it again here in chapter 5 in verse 13 in the **negative or opposite sense**.

If you are going to live well in God’s world and avoid the folly and the associated traps of sexual sin, **we must listen to God’s wisdom**. Our ear must be **tuned to His word**.

The goal is that the lips, which speak from the heart guard knowledge

**The Destructive Power of Adultery (3-6)**

Beginning in verse 3 we are introduced to the **forbidden woman**, and she will be the focus for the remainder of the chapter, but do not miss the larger point. As wisdom was personified as a lady, here wickedness is personified as a lady.

Now, this chapter is dealing with the **“forbidden woman”** but the context is **much larger** than just staying away from married women and likely points to all sexual misconduct!

Let’s begin working through this…

**3**For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, **4**but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. **5**Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; **6**she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

**Vs 3 -** Notice how the lips of a forbidden woman are portrayed by Solomon to his son. They **drip honey**, her lips **are desirable**, she **is tempting**, and **she is desirable**. Her **speech is smoother than oil**, she **flatters with her tongue**, she is a **smooth talker**, **whose lips drip honey, while she inflates the ego, she is so kind and so appealing.**

Solomon wants his son to picture the **allurement**, to **imagine the draw…**

**Vs 4 -** But ultimately, at the end we see the **disastrous results of sexual sin**. She is bitter as poison. She **seemed smooth as oil**, she proved to be **sharp as a two-edge sword**. **FURTHER…**

**Vs 5 -** Her lips **may drip honey**, but her **feet go down to death**, here **steps are the steps** that follow the **path of the grave.**

With the same **intensity** that Solomon used to make the forbidden woman appear **desirable**, he is now going to use to make sure his son sees**, where it all leads**.

The Bible does not try to hide sexuality, in fact, Solomon is using **word pictures** that make the **sexual desire** clear. **But equally the Bible does not indulge in titillation.**

The Bible does not hide or obscure **the realities** and **dangers** of **sex outside of wedlock**, rather it deals with it in an **honest**, **open**, and **wholesome way**.

Hebrew is a little tough here: She has **no interest** in the **path of life**, and **she wanders in her ways**, and she will not know.

Do not be fooled by **someone’s supposed sincerity**. Be convinced by the **path they are on**!

**The Father’s Exhortation To His Son (7-14)**

**Vs 7**And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. **8**Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, **9**lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, **10**lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, **11**and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, **12**and you say, “How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! **13**I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. **14**I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation.”

**Vs 7 -** Solomon reiterates, listen to me, do not depart from the words of my mouth! Listen to what God says about this. Stay away from immorality, I do not care the form (plan to avoid sexually immorality, this includes pornography).

**Vs 8 -** **Keep** your way (this word has to do with a road or ruts or tracts that are cut) keep the tracts away from this woman, do not even go near the **door of her house**. This is likely a **double-entendre**, that points to **sexual contact**.

Do not go near the **door of her house!** You get the double-entendre meaning. Do not go near the doors of her house! Make it hard to fall, whatever steps you need to take, take those steps now to **avoid sexual temptation**.

**Vs 9 -** When you give in to the **forbidden woman**, Solomon would tell his son you are:

1. Giving your **honor to others** (reputation)
2. Giving your years to the merciless

**Vs 10 -**

1. Strangers steel your strength
2. The payment for your labor goes to the house of a foreigner.

In our culture there is alimony, child support, single parent homes….

**Vs 11 -** At end of your life you groan, your flesh and your body are consumed. Here the flesh and the body consumed **due to illicit sexual behavior.**

**Vs 12 –** Here we get a clear glimpse of the regret of the fallen. Do we really want to be the one who **reflects back** and rightly say… **OHHHH how I hated discipline**, OHHHH how my heart hated to be corrected.

Men, if we will not follow the Bible as it relates to sexuality, we are ones who Solomon would rightly conclude **“despise reproof.”**

I would **provide three warnings for us**:

1. **Sin has consequences**
   1. You can choose your sin but you cannot chose the consequences
2. Be sure your **sin will find you out**
3. Avoid the **regret of the fallen**

**Vs 13 -** For you and I, our teacher is the **word of God**, for you and I, our **instructors** are the **flawless words of God!**

**Vs 14 -** Repeated lifelong giving in to sexual sin, will result in a lose honor, a lose influence alose life, not in the sense of physical life, although with the many diseases today that can happen, but in reference to the **quality of life**.

**The Antidote to Adultery (15-20)**

**Vs 15**Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. **16**Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? **17**Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. **18**Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, **19**a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. **20**Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

**Vs 15 -** This is a **beautiful picture** of partaking in your **wife sexually**.

Again, when it comes to sexuality, the Bible is open and honest, with language that is clear, but is not dirty, nor it is not overly graphic. But this picture is both beautiful and clear.

God has placed a **desire in your heart**, and the only one who should fulfill that desire is your wife, your own well.

Do not be floating around drinking **from every muddied hole** you stumble upon, rather, drink pure water from your **own cistern**, fresh flowing water from your own well.

**Vs 16 -** You would not want your water scattered abroad. You see this union between a husband and a wife is to be both beautiful and fulfilling!

**Vs 17 -** Your well is reserved for you and you alone. Equally, you should have one well, your wife.

Your well is not meant for anyone other than you!

Sexuality was never meant to involve more than one husband and his one wife. Strangers in any form, was never part of the equation.

Yet, all of the perversion of today, involve bringing strangers into this beautiful union that God created.

**Vs 18 -** Rejoice in one thing and one thing alone, your wife…

**Vs 19 -** Listen to this language, let the breasts of your wife fill you with **delight at all times.**

Your delight should be in your wife. And this is not just a general delight, but this is a **sexual delight**. You see, God’s desire for man is **delighting in the wife who God gave him**!

Your delight should be in **sexual gratification with our wife alone.**

You should be **intoxicated always in her love**! What a **beautiful picture.**

Men, for this to happen it takes **constant attention** and **constant work**, but when done well, it is a **beautiful thing and God’s design**!

**Vs 20 -** Rhetorical question: Then a question from the father to his son, why my son, would you desire to be **intoxicated with a forbidden woman**. Why my son would you **embrace the bosom of an adulteress?**

**Four Final Reminders (21-23)**

**21**For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths. **22**The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. **23**He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

**Vs 21 - A Reminder:** The **Lord is watching!** He has instructed, he has showed the ohhh man what is good and right, and now he ponders our paths.

**Vs 22 -** **A Reminder:** **Sexual sin is a trap!** Sexual sin, is a **trap**, it **ensnares**, it **holds fast**. It **binds**… **My testimony (time)**

**Vs 23 -** **A Reminder:** **Sexual sin steels your life!** The man who chases after sexual sin loses that **quality of life**, and because of his “great folly” he is lead astray.

**Vs 23b – The folly of sexual sin blinds as it binds. It leads you further and further away from the good life!**

Because of the **“great folly” of** the one ensnared in sexual sin he is lead away from the **path of life**.

Over the last six months Solomon has said much about **Hokema** **(wisdom).** Every lesson we have discussed obtaining and walking in God’s wisdom. I have defined wisdom, I have provided steps to get wisdom.

Here, at the end of this lesson, we run into the **antithesis of wisdom**. Her name is folly - **אולת (‘ivveleth) (*iv-veh’-leth)***, this is the first time she has appeared in Proverbs but she will show up 19 more times. She shows up almost as much as wisdom.

Think of **folly** as **anti-wisdom**, or **wisdom NOT**, or than **antithesis of wisdom**.

Look at some of the verses that talk about folly - **אולת (‘ivveleth) (*iv-veh’-leth)*.**

Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his **folly**. (Pro 13:16, ESV).

The wisest of women builds her house, but **folly** with her own hands tears it down. (Pro 14:1, ESV).

The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the **folly** of fools is deceiving. (Pro 14:8, ESV).

**Folly** is a joy to him who lacks sense, but a man of understanding walks straight ahead. (Pro 15:21).

Men, we have a choice, we can choose **wisdom** or we can choose folly, both are crying out for our attention, one promises a lot and delivers nothing but misery, the other promises eternal life with God and holds true on that promise.

Men together I encourage us 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 lead lives of wisdom for the glory of Christ Jesus**, the one who **Himself is God’s wisdom**.