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

**Beware of:**

Here in chapter 6 we come to the father’s **ninth speech** (out of ten).

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 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.

### Our last time together the Father had a great deal to say about Wisdom in our relationships (male and female). It was heavy and included the Destructive Power of Adultery, the Father’s Exhortations to His Son to Stay Clear of Adultery, and the Father Provided an Antidote to Adultery.

### This month we come to a speech that cover a lot of ground and provides us with a number of dangers we will want to steer clear of if we are to live well in God’s world. If we are to live a life of wisdom חָכְמָה‎ (*khok-maw)*

### The Speech breaks down into four separate warnings, four beware ofs:

**Beware of Financial Indiscretion. (verses 1-5)**

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

**Beware of Sewing Discord. (verses 12-19)**

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

The uniting theme of this chapter is the father’s encouragement to maintain a **healthy distance** from these **sly killers of the good life**. To give in to them is to **forsake wisdom** and to **give way to folly** which often leads to **calamity**.

**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 that 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.

**6:1-2** 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,

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.

**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.

Go quickly and attempt to get out of this financial situation. Work with your neighbor to be **free from this obligation**. Quick humility is needed, time is most important. Recognize you have made an error, humble yourself, and go and attempt to remedy the scenario.

**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.

Further, do not rest. Save yourself, like the way a gazelle might save himself from a hunter of the way a bird might try to save themselves from a fowler.

**Beware of Financial Indiscretion**

**Beware of Laziness (verses 6-11)**

**6** ¶ Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.

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**.

Now, before we look at all that Solomon has to say about the **ant** and the wisdom that can be learned from the ant. I want to make a broader point that we should not miss.

**Who made the ant?**

### So, God wove wisdom חָכְמָה‎ (*khok-maw),* into even the smallest of creatures, and we should not be surprised to find wisdom woven throughout God’s creation if he took the time to weave it into even the ants.

### So what examples of wisdom can be found in an ant? Here we go…

**7-8** Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, **8** she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

Think of all they accomplish, and yet they do it without a clear **chain of command**, without a **clear line of authority**. They carry massive objects by working together, they build massive ant mounds, yet there is not a hierarchy of authority, they pull it off **by working together**.

The ant gathers food without a **Joseph overseeing the collection**, and yet they prepare for bread in summer and gather food in the harvest. With nothing more really than a single queen and she is not directing the work, they pull all of this off.

There is great wisdom in the life of the ant, that we can apply to ourselves. Ohhhh the things that we can **accomplish for the glory of God** if **we work together.**

**9-11** 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.

Then 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!**

**Vs 10 – Sarcasm mingled with irony.** Here is the point, laziness leads to poverty, and it will come upon them like a robber or like an armed man.

You and I should follow **God’s pattern between work and rest**. Work six days, rest the seventh day, that is a good pattern to follow.

**Fourteen times** in the Proverbs God connects **laziness with poverty**.

I have found most people are prone to **overwork** or **to be lazy**, balance in this area is **what we desire** and what glorifies God.

**Beare of Laziness**

**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. We will see one example of that in just a moment.

**12-13** ¶ A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, **13** winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger,

**Vs 12 -** opens with some of the harshest language we will find in the Proverbs and it is about a person Solomon calls **“worthless.”** It is a **good for nothing person**, it is a **wicked person**. Solomon further clarifies it is a person that goes about with **crooked speech**. In the Hebrew it is a person who goes about with a **crooked mouth**.

It is still unclear exactly who Solomon is talking about, but have no fear, he will clear it up for us. These people **wink with their eyes**, they signal with their feet, they point with their fingers. These people are always **hinting towards evil**, to see if someone will **pick up on the hint**. One commentator said their lives in **various ways point to evil**.

**14** with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord;

**Vs 14 –** But with a perverted heart they devise evil, here it points to an **evil heart** that continually **sows discord**. This person, is a person who sows discord.

This is **very harsh criticism**, is Solomon confused?

Hardly, here is how Paul expressed this point to the **church in Rome**:

**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. (Rom 16:17-18, ESV).

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!

**15** therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

**Vs 15** - For discord sewers, for gossip generators, the warning is clear, **calamity will come upon them suddenly**; in a moment they will be **broken beyond healing**.

Suffice it to say **gossip**, **hidden slander**, and **sowing discord** are all **serious matters**. Notice what Solomon says, **in a moment, broken beyond healing.**

When the Lord Jesus, returns calamity will **fall upon wicked** and in a moment they will be **broken beyond healing**!

This discussion of one **sewing discord** seems to cause Solomon to break out in a listing of things that the Yahweh hates.

**16-19** 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.

**Vs 16-17 -** Solomon provides us a list of seven things that are an **abomination to the Lord**. Funny thing is they are not necessarily the **things we might guess.**

But here are God’s biggies: **pride**, **lying**, **violent hands**, **hearts that constantly dream up evil plans**, **feet that run to evil**, a **false witness**, a **sewer of discord among brothers**.

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, **for 3 transgression and for four**.

Six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him. It is that seventh one that is most serious.

**Here is the list:**

1. Haughty eyes – proud eyes, arrogant eyes
2. A lying tongue – someone who just lies
3. Hands that shed innocent blood – murderous hands
4. A heart that devises wicked plans – a wicked heart
5. Feet that make haste to run to evil – a reveler in sin
6. A false witness who breathes out lies – a false witness
7. The top of the list, sewing discord among the brethren. Satan works to divide the body; the Holy Spirit works to unite it.

**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, work to unite the body.

**Beware of Sowing Discord**

**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!** This woman will hunt you down. Do **not be fooled** there are a number of potential costs for going into the **forbidden woman**.

**It is worth noting that more ink is spilt discussing lust that the other three (by far)!**

**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.

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 Vs 21 – Bind them on your hearts, tie them like a necklace around our necks!

This is **graphic** but we get the **picture.**

**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.

Vs 22 – Here Solomon **personifies God’s words**, God’s instructions. Notice God’s word will **lead us**, God’s word will **lie down with us**, **watch over us**, and **speak to us**. That is what the living Word will do in our lives!

Heb 4:12:

II Tim 3:16-17

**23-24** 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.

Vs 23-24 -Further, God word is a lamp and a light, (it is a **flashlight in the dark**, it is **reading glass for the small print**, it is **gaggles for looking in the water**. It is a lamp and a light.

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**!

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

Vs 25 – Solomon is open and honest, don’t you love how openly honest the scriptures are. The forbidden woman may be beautiful, and there is nothing wrong with beauty.

The problem is when we desire that forbidden beauty. Solomon would tell us: Do not let her **capture you** with any of her **provocative charms**.

**26** for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.

Although the price of a prostitute is a small price. The forbidden woman, a woman who is another man’s wife and she is a **soul hunter**! Solomon is asking, is a little fling worth the destruction? Is a few minutes of **heated pleasure** worth the **calamity and chaos**?

**27** Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?

Vs 27 - The warning to stay away from the forbidden woman comes in the form of a **very graphic rhetorical question**. Can a man pick up a burning log, put it next to his chest and not set his clothes on fire?

So too, a **forbidden woman.**

**28** Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?

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!

So with the forbidden woman it is going to hurt you and those around you.

**29** So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

Vs 29 – So is the man who goes into the forbidden woman. He is like a man taking a burning log to his chest. He is like a man walking on flaming coals.

And, he will not go unpunished.

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

**30-31** 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.

Vs 30 – People understand when someone steals for food, but if caught, the person will pay and pay dearly. He might very well have to liquidate property to repay.

**32-33** 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.

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. He makes in the woman’s husband an eternal enemy.

**I am not a pastor, I am just a Sunday School teacher, but even I sense the seriousness of this sin.**

**Many pastors, many Sunday School teachers, many leaders in Christianity have crashed their ships on the sands of the forbidden shore and received wounds, dishonor, and disgrace.**

**34-35** 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.

You are going to **create an enemy**, he will **take revenge**, he will not **accept any compensation**, no gift will clear his anger.

Here is another slayer of men’s souls and enemy who will not be silenced or quieted regardless of what you may try.

The theme that ties together this entire chapter is the father’s guidance to steer clear of these **slayers of men’s souls**. To give in to them is to **forsake wisdom** and to **embrace folly** which **often leads to calamity**.

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**, the one who **Himself is the manifestation of God’s wisdom**.