**Proverbs 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**.

### This is the fourth (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 had a great deal to say 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!

### The father likens what happens to this simple-minded youngster 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.

### Solomon is emphatically warning his sons, and through him God is 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!

### Vs 1-5 Introduction

***7:1 My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; 2keep 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 vs 1-2 and 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 Hebrew says, keep my teaching as the pupil of your eye.**

***3bind them*** ***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 them on your heart. How in the world do we do that?For the Christian, this is part of regeneration and part of the New Covenant.But for the Hebrew, this was part of a promised coming day:

***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).*

***4Say 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**.

***5to 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.

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?

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**Vs 6-20 The Lesson**

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

The father says: I looked out my window and also saw a foolish young man. He was a young man who lacked sense. He was operating the opposite of **חָכְמָה‎ (*khok-maw)*.**

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

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.

***9in 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**.

The darkness of the evening **likely symbolizes the spiritual darkness** of this road and proceeding down this path. **It has been said that sin blinds as it binds.**

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

The **forbidden woman** meets him, she is on the **prowl** 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 Hebrew word translated **“wiley of heart”** include Holman, she has a **“hidden agenda”,** Modern English Version **“subtle heart”**, NASB **“cunning heart.”** The Hebrew **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.**

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

She is loud and she is **wayward,** and her feet do not stay at home. These words in the Hebrew have a **rich sexual connotation.** She is a married woman who is **out of the house and on the street, she is wayward.**

***12now 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!

***13She 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 seems to mean to make your face 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;***

What she seems to be saying is today I have offered sacrifices; I have gone to the temple and paid vows. She says, today I am prayed up, I am close to God, I am in step with God.

***15so 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.

***16I 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. It is covered in Egyptian linens. Her smooth speech causes the man think he is everything to her.

***17I 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 Song 4:14. I have prepared everything **just for you** and **just for this moment**. I have perfumed by bed just for you. This will be a special moment between you and I.

***18Come, 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.

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.

***19For 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 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.

***20he 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.

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

Much seductive speech (it is more than flattery, it is flirtatious) and with this provocative speech she seduces him. With smooth talk (likely more flattery) she compels him.

**Paul would say:** ***1Cor. 6:18*** *Flee from sexual immorality...*

**Jesus would say:** ***Matt 5:29*** *If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away…*

***22All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast 23till 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, 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.

He is going to pay the full payment for her services but he does not know this may cost him everything.

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**Verses 24-27 – The Conclusion**

***24And 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!**

***25Let 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.**

**The battle of sin will be 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.”

***26for 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!**

***27Her 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 actually **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 us 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**, the one who **Himself is the manifestation of God’s wisdom**.

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