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

**Wisdom in Relationships (The Eighth Speech)**

### 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 goes all the way to chapter 9. In this first section we have **ten speeches** or **ten appeals** from a **father to his son**. Also in the first section there are **four appeals** or **four** **monologues**, where **wisdom is personified as a lady**, we will call her **lady wisdom**.

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.

**Summary:** The **wisdom that God provides** is connected to **God’s revelation and** reliant on our **dependance on God** to obtain it.

Before we open the father’s eight speech, I want to remind us of two important things. First, 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 forgiveness 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.

**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.***

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**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!

***3For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, 4but 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; 6she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.***

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

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

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

**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.

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

***15Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. 16Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? 17Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. 18Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. 20Why 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, the Bible is open and honest, with language that is clear, but is not dirty nor is it 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 own wife, metaphorically, your own well.

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

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

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Here, at the end of this lesson, we run into the **antithesis of wisdom**. Her name is folly, this is the first time she has appeared in Proverbs, but she will show up 19 other times. She shows up almost as much as wisdom.

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

Some of the verses that talk about folly (Pro 13:16, Pro 14:1, Pro 14:8, Pro 15:21).

Men 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** (ICor 1:30).

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