

## Proverbs 7:1-27

Sexual purity is no small topic in the book of Proverbs. Of course what's ironic about it is that Solomon, (the primary writer of the proverbs) was virtually ruined because of his lack of restraint when it came to what seemed to be his unbridled infatuation w/women.

We read in the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, *"But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.' Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David."*<sup>1</sup>

3 Things I want to note about that. #1 Wives, never underestimate the influential role that you play in the life of your husband. You've heard that when it comes to the home, the husband is the "head" & the wife is the "neck" & she can turn him in various directions. Now that may not be true categorically, & he's accountable for his decisions most definitely but your influence in his life is *powerful*. Never downplay it & don't be ignorant of it, things you may say flippantly or perhaps you're saying something in spite or out of anger (be it toward him or even someone else whom he's dealing with) can weigh heavily in the decision he makes. "His wives turned away his heart, turned his heart after other gods;" other priorities.

#2 I would say that just being *wise* is no guarantee that you're going to walk in *wisdom*. You might be the wisest person on the face of the earth, that doesn't ensure that you'll use that wisdom in an appropriate manner. We've got to put the wisdom that we have (or that we've received) into practice in our lives.

#3 Solomon had 700 wives & 300 concubines... What should that tell us? It tells us (guys, gals just swap the gender) that if 1 woman isn't enough, than 1,000 women won't be enough. Proverbs 27 tells us, *"Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied."*<sup>2</sup> It's the flesh; the flesh is never satisfied; it is a powerful foe. We're not to entertain it, not to tease it or try to just dance near the edge of it; we're to crucify it & make no provision for it to fulfill its lusts. What does that mean? We'll see in just a minute.

The 1<sup>st</sup> 9 Ch's of the book of proverbs deal primarily w/2 subjects...

<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (1 Ki 11:1-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Pr 27:20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Wisdom & women; the exhortation the word of God gives us is to embrace the wisdom & flee from the evil woman.

### Vs 1-4

We see this commonly in the proverbs & I hope you're beginning to pick up on it & that is the *gravity* of these commands & the *urgency* w/which we're to heed them. Again & again we're reading Solomon's exhortation, "*keep my words, treasure my commands, keep my commands, my law...*" "*Bind them on your fingers, write them on the tablet of your heart...*"

Do you think he's trying to tell us something? I think he's seeking to instill in us the grave importance of studying, meditating upon, thinking about & committing to our memory the word of God. **The idea being that the more we reflect on it & study it, the greater the degree will be that we will begin to assimilate & integrate & internalize it. & More of the word of God (the wisdom of God) that we've internalized the more equipped we're gonna be to resist & w/stand the temptations of sin in our lives.**

Do you remember what the psalmist said? He said, "*Your word I have hidden in my heart*, (why) *That I might not sin against You.*"<sup>3</sup> You see, he'd internalized God's word, he'd committed to his heart/mind & therefore he was aware of sin & equipped to deal w/it's temptations.

Solomon says that the word of God, the wisdom of God should be like treasure to you & me, of great value. He says, "Treasure my commands" where? "W/in you"; "keep my law as the apple of your eye." That is, at the core of your being, in the center of who you are. "Bind them on your fingers" (like a wedding ring), "Write them on the tablet of *your heart*". "Say to wisdom, you are my sister (or my wife [a close most intimate part of your life]). "Call understanding your nearest of kin." Are you feeling the flow here?

There is a dire exhortation to keep God's wisdom so close to you that it's actually a working part of who you are. It forms the way you lead your life, the paths you take, the decisions that you make.

You focus regularly on God's word & you will find a provision of protection against adultery/sexual immorality. You regularly entertain perversion or sexual images in your mind & it will lead you closer to engaging in sin physically that you've already committed in your heart & mentally.

<sup>3</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Ps 119:11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

When Jesus was giving His sermon on the mount; He articulated a series of truths w/the common thread of God's interest in what's going on in our heart. As a matter of fact God is way more concerned w/what's going on in our heart than He is the actions of our lives. Because you can do the wrong thing, but have the *right heart* in it. On the flip side, you can do the right thing, but your heart/attitude are all outta whack & in the wrong place. Jesus said, *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*<sup>4</sup> & Again God tells us in His word that man looks to the outward appearance but the Lord searches the heart...

Because way before something manifests itself on the outside, it's swimming around in our hearts on the inside. We spoke of this Sunday morning. *Change begins on the inside initially, but it has to manifest itself on the outside ultimately or else you've not truly had a change on the inside. Here Solomon says, "hey, write these things on your heart, take them down & internalize them, let them permeate & infiltrate the inside & the way they will translate on the outside is found (in this context) in Vs 5.*

### Vs5

You will be equipped when confronted w/the temptation to sin. So if God's word is rooted *in* & reflected *on* regularly in your heart, than you will have the tools to lead a moral & upright life, steering clear of sinful situations. You will be able to more effectively identify the snares that lie in wait for you as you navigate life.

### Vs 6-9

You can just sense the danger lurking as you read the passage. Notice that this young man wasn't particularly evil; he's not a hardened sinner. But he *is* naïve. He's "simple", he lacks understanding (or wisdom). So you can see the comparison/contrast that's happening here. If you're wise you will live, if you're wise you will be kept from the immoral woman, from the seductress.

He says that he saw a young man who *wasn't* wise, who was naïve & lacked these attributes & because of that he wondered where he ought not be as the sun was going down. Now a few minutes ago we talked about making no provision for the flesh & how that comes into play practically, here it is. The bible says, *"...put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."*<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Mt 5:27-28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>5</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Ro 13:14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Or to understand that another way, don't place yourself in a position to be tempted unnecessarily. Don't willfully enter into an environment whereby you know the risk of you being tempted runs high... A man by the name of Robert L. Alden wrote, "If you want to avoid the devil, stay away from his neighborhood. If you suspect you might be vulnerable to a particular sin, take steps to avoid it."

Now we know that this young man is going to fall prey to his predator. But wisdom says, "Don't even go down that street, don't enter that neighborhood at night, don't put yourself in that environment." Once he started down the path toward this woman's house it was only going to get more & more difficult to flee the situation w/each step. Notice it went (Vs 9) from twilight, to the black & dark of night... Jesus said that men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. It gives them a false sense of security, a feeling of anonymity, the belief that they're getting away w/their sin because perhaps they're unseen.

We can concede to the fact that there are times when we can't avoid temptation, but there's never a reason to place *ourselves* in a place of temptation. This young man ventures down her path naïvely, unwisely.

### Vs 10-20

Let's notice some things about what's going on here. How it is that this woman presents herself. I took note #1 of the way she dressed (Vs 10, w/the attire of a harlot). Now ladies, I think that there's a lot of unnecessary criticism that you have to endure about the way you dress, a lot of emphasis is placed upon you when it could equally be placed upon the men to repent of their perverted mindsets. **Having said that, don't recoil in such a way as to not exercise wisdom in the way that you present yourself. Don't dress is some scantily clad, leave nothing to the imagination kind of outfit & then act offended when guys are gawking at you... I think there's a responsibility on both sides to exercise prudence & err to the side of caution.**

I also took note #2 of the way she acted (Vs 11-13), she was loud & rebellious, boisterous & intentional in her agenda. **She was dressed all revealing & then she got all loud/drawing attention to herself, she was (the word is) "lurking" at every corner. The word speaks of "lying in wait" w/the intent to ambush. She caught him & kissed him w/a shameless face.**

Then I took note #3 of the way she spoke...

“I have peace offerings, I have paid my vows today so I came out to meet you, I sought you diligently & have made my bed ready”. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks... But here’s the sad irony of it all. She feigns some sort of spiritual life as she lures him toward death, “I’ve paid my vows, I have peace offerings”. *It’s like she’s talking to him about church earlier that day. But now that she’s not at church you couldn’t discern her from the rest of the world. Funny how there’s nothing new under the sun isn’t it? How many people today go to church on Sunday but then live life like the rest of the world Monday through Saturday?* They might talk about the study, raise their hands in worship, but it doesn’t translate into their day to day...

People have this weird mindset of if they’ve gone to church they’ve done their righteous duty for the week & now it’s as if they have a license to walk after the flesh. *It’s like getting dirty all week, getting cleaned up on Sunday only to go wallow in the mire the rest of the week. It doesn’t work that way... How can you mix light & darkness? It can’t be done, we can’t live after the flesh & after the Spirit. We’ve got to crucify the flesh & walk in the Spirit.*

She says, “Come let us take our fill of love until the morning.” In reality what she’s saying is, “Let’s go consume ourselves in our lusts.” What she’s offering is not *love* at all.

Finally I noted #4 the way she reasoned... “For my husband isn’t home, he’s gone on a long journey & won’t be back for a long time.” “No one will no, it’s fool proof, we’ll never be caught... what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas...” Temptation will always try to assure you that it’ll be okay in the end, you won’t get caught, or it’ll all work out for the best. But you can be sure (Num 32:23) you sin will find you out. Jesus said, *“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.”*<sup>6</sup> Adam & Eve thought they could hide from God in the garden & cover their sin... how’d that work out for them?

So from her dress she attacks the eye gate, the way she speaks she attacks the ear gate; she’s tell him how great he is & his wife is always telling him to mow the lawn & take out the trash (she’s flattering him). She strokes his ego, she attacks the feel-gate w/her touch & her kiss, she even offers him a meal (peace offerings she had were the meat left over from the sacrifice). Then she appeals to the gate of his mind, his rationale, how safe the sin will be, they won’t get caught & she’ll make it well worth his while...

<sup>6</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). [Lk 12:2-3]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

**Vs 21-23**

Tell me again what the wages of sin are? Death (Rom 6:23). She broke down his defenses & she closed the trap. He's like an ox thinking he's being led into green pastures when in reality he's being led to the slaughter. Someone said that flattery is like chewing gum, you might enjoy it briefly but don't swallow it.

Sin always comes at a price... It's like the golfer who walks into the pro shop & asks if they sell ball markers. The golf pro says, "Yeah, they're just \$1.00 each." So the guy hands the golf pro the \$1.00 & says, "I'll take one." The guy takes the dollar opens the register & hands the golfer a quarter ☺... (Get it? He paid him \$1.00 to get a quarter to mark his ball with ☺). Here's the point: sin is never worth the price you pay...

Someone said flattery is like chewing gum, enjoy it briefly but don't swallow it.

**Vs 24-27**

You see, she wants you to think that you're something special, that she really has a love for you that's different. But the truth is that you're just one more notch in her belt. "She has cast down *many* wounded, & *all* who were slain by her were *strong* men. The idea being, "Don't think you're some sort of exception to the rule."

How many leaders of God's people have been ensnared through sexual sin? Solomon is telling his son what Paul told the Corinthians when he said, "Flee sexual immorality". He told Timothy, "Flee youthful lusts" (2 Timothy 2:22).

Flee the evil woman, embrace wisdom, it'll save your life. Have ears to hear, pay attention to the words of my mouth & don't let your heart turn aside...

**Prayer Points:**

God may we take heed to the wisdom of your word. We don't want to be those who may be wise but don't walk in wisdom. We want to put into practice the tools that You give us to navigate life. So help us to meditate on Your word, to commit Your word to memory, to hide it in our heart. Help us to lead lives of holiness to the glory of Your name.