

WORSHIP SERVICE - 6.12.2022

AVOIDING THE ENTICEMENT OF SINNERS

I. INTRODUCTION

PROVERBS 1:8-19

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

11 If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason;

12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

13 we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder;

14 throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"—

15 my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths,

16 for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.

17 For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird,

18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives.

19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

II. LESSONS FROM A FATHER

- Ch. 1-9 are a series of lessons in the style of a father's instruction to his son.
- While you and I will benefit greatly from these series of lessons we are not the primary audience.
- The book is addressed to "the son." The one giving the lesson is identified as the father.
- The implied reader/hearer, then, is a son. He would be an older child, a young man.

- To read Proverbs correctly, we need to put ourselves in the place of the original hearer, a young man.
- That helps us to understand the nature of the advice and counsel that this first part of Proverbs is laying out.
- The lessons tend to assume the son's obedience.
- "The Path"—One of the most common metaphors that is used in this series of lessons in the first nine chapters is that of the "path," or "way."
- The path is a rich metaphor for our actions in life.
- A path is a direction with a starting point, where we currently are in life; a destination, where our path is taking us; and a fork in the road, a key moment of transition in life.
- The son has two paths that are available to him—one that is right and leads to life, and one that is wrong and leads to death.
- The son is walking on the path of life and the father is encouraging him to remain on the right path and also warning him of the dangers he will encounter along the way.
- Additionally, he will encounter two women on the way: these women are personifications of Wisdom and Folly.

1. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

- Wisdom begins in the home.
- The son is implored to hear and to hold on to the instruction and teaching of his parents.
- It has always been God's plan for parents to be the primary teachers of wisdom.
- **Deut. 6:6-7** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
- **Eph. 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- While the father is to have the leadership role in the home, especially spiritual leadership, both parents have an authoritative role in the instruction of their children.
- Parents, you are to be the primary educator and influencer in the lives of your children.
- Parents to you has been given the God-ordained task of teaching your children how the world works, what God expects us of, and the way of wisdom.
- Teach your children the fear of the Lord as the foundation for wisdom and teach them God's Word that contains God's best for them.
- It is your responsibility to transmit the family's spiritual inheritance.

2. A CHILD'S OBEDIENCE

- The father's plea is to not only listen to the parental instruction and teaching, but also to not abandon it when they are pressured to do so.
- While parents have the responsibility to instruct their children in God's Word and God's ways, children are commanded to obey their parents.
- **Exodus 20:12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
- Children are to submit to their parents because God has placed parents as an authority over them.
- They are to honor their parents by submitting to their good instruction and correction, with proper obedience.

- Paul restates the law of God in **Ephesians 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- It is right because that is God's design and intent.
- It is right because God has commanded it in his law.
- It is right because God through the gospel has enabled joyful obedience.
- Children are to obey, and parents, you must insist on it.
- Why? To allow a child to defy you and disobey you is to teach them to defy and to disobey God.

3. THE ADORNMENT OF PARENTAL WISDOM

9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

- Herein lies the motivation for obeying the word of God and the wisdom passed on from the parents to the child.
- A child who heeds his father's instructions and warnings is made attractive by their obedience to their parents.
- Wise children wear wisdom figuratively as a crown and a necklace.
- They are the adornments of parental wisdom upon the child who triumphs in life and triumphs over their enemies through obedience.
- That's the blessing the law of God confirms in the fifth commandment.
- We have Jesus as our perfect example of the obedient son.
- **Luke 2:51-52** And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

III. LESSON 1 - AVOIDING THE ENTICEMENT OF SINNERS

1. THE SINNERS' INVITATION

- Who are the sinners?
- Based on the illustration the father tells the son, sinners are the son's peers.
- He is setting before the son an example of a particular temptation the son may face as he is pressured by his peer group to join their violent gang and pursue a life of crime, getting easy money through robbery, violence, and murder.
- *"if sinners entice you"*
- The word "entice" comes from the same word translated as "simple" in 1:4.
- The simple are the group of people that Proverbs is aimed at. They are the naive, the ignorant, the immature, the gullible.
- To "entice" then means to be easily persuaded.
- If the son is gullible, he may be enticed through deception or pressure from these misfits
- The father's instruction to the son here is clear, if sinners tempt you to go against wisdom, to do something contrary to God's Word, do not consent.
- "Do not consent" means to be unwilling to go along with, to not even be disposed to going along with, or to not even want to go along with.

2. THE SINNERS' TEMPTATION

11 If they say, "Come with us,

- The father lays out the form the temptation may take along with the promises it makes.
 - Our children, our youth, face enormous pressure and temptation from the world today.
 - This is the call of the world, “Come with us...”
 - It lures, seduces, beckons our children and youth to go down a different path.
 - We all face a similar temptation that challenges our allegiance to God and His Word.
- Young people need to beware of friends who offer identity or demand a certain loyalty that competes with that of their families.
 - 1 Cor. 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”
 - An implicit message in this first lesson is a reminder of the influence that your circle of friends will have upon your character and your reputation.
 - A young person’s primary social group and influence should be the family and not their peers.
- v11-14 Here is the crux of the temptation dangled before the son,
 - 11 If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason;
 - 12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
 - 13 we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder;
 - 14 throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse”—
 - The enticement is to join the violent gang through the promise of financial gain: “we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder.”
 - There is also the promise of community: “throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse.”
 - The gang promises easy money.
 - What’s motivating them—greed and lawless behavior.

3. THE SINNERS’ DESTRUCTION

V15-19 my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths,

16 for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.

17 For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird,

18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives.

- Why is it devastating to take the path of those greedy for unjust gain?
- Because the outcome is bloodshed, death.
- Not just the blood of their victims that they shed, but they also shed their own blood.
- The sinners say “*let us lie in wait for blood*” (v11)
- The sinners “*make haste to shed blood.*” (v16)
- The sinners “*lie in wait for their own blood.*” (V18)
- They are waiting to ambush others but they themselves are ambushed (V11,18).
- Even a bird knows better than to step into an obvious trap, one that is not camouflaged. These fools are dumber than birds. Sooner or later, their sins will catch up with them and ensnare them.

V19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

- Unchecked greed, lust for material possessions, and getting them at any cost, will wreck your life.
 - Proverbs are not promises in the way we think about promises. Proverbs are generally how things work out in this life. However, Proverbs will always work out in the end.
 - The wisdom the father is teaching the son is that greed for unjust gain, easy money, will destroy you—sometimes now and sometimes later—but it will destroy you.
 - Some of the things you do may not be discovered in this life, but they will be judged on the Day of the Lord.
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- The heart of the matter is that unchecked greed and desires will lead us down the wrong path.
 - The issue is not money or profit, it is how you get it and how you use it.
 - You'll see in Proverbs that wealth that comes by means of a good work ethic, good stewardship, and generosity in the way you use money, is a good thing.
 - Everywhere in Proverbs there are warnings and condemnations about easy money, get rich quick schemes or using others to get what you want.
 - If you're greedy for money, Paul has a warning for us.
 - **1 Timothy 6:9-10** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.
 - Jesus said, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

CONCLUSION

- The good news is that Jesus can rescue us from our foolish and sinful greed.
- Judas, one of Jesus's disciples, fell into the trap by being enticed to join a bloodthirsty gang to murder an innocent man. He did this for money.
- Jesus is put to death among thieves. It seems like the Proverb is not true.
- The innocent man dies while the guilty who deserve to die go unpunished.
- Jesus took upon himself the punishment that thieves and sinners deserve so that thieves and sinners like us could be forgiven.
- He was punished for our greed, for our sinful desires, for our murderous and violent hearts.
- In Christ, we are set free from our greed to live righteously and generously.
- In Christ, we are empowered to walk in wisdom.
- In Christ, we are given a new community, that doesn't entice us to sin but stirs us up to love and good deeds.