

WORSHIP SERVICE - 8.14.2022

THE DEVASTATION OF SEXUAL SIN

I. INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 5:7-14

7 And now, O sons, listen to me,
and do not depart from the words of my mouth.

8 Keep your way far from her,
and do not go near the door of her house,

9 lest you give your honor to others
and your years to the merciless,

10 lest strangers take their fill of your strength,
and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,

11 and at the end of your life you groan,
when your flesh and body are consumed,

12 and you say, "How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!

13 I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
or incline my ear to my instructors.

14 I am at the brink of utter ruin
in the assembled congregation."

II. AVOIDING SEXUAL SIN

- The central aim of Solomon's lesson to his son is found in v2, "that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge."
- The motivating factor for the young man to do that was so that he would stand a chance when tempted by the forbidden woman.
- The forbidden woman, the adulteress, represents all manner of sexual temptation that presents itself.
- It's not just adultery, but lust, fornication, one-night stands, porn, homosexuality, and cohabitation.
- The son's decision is the same as ours when faced with sexual temptation, do we follow the way of wisdom or do we listen to the flattering words of sin that appeals to our flesh?
- Whose counsel do we listen to?

- Our passage today shifts to warning all of Solomon's sons concerning the dreadful consequences of being with the forbidden woman, of falling into sexual sin.
- We who have lived a life longer than our children understand the perils and pitfalls that await our children.

- We know them because we have encountered those perils and pitfalls ourselves. Every good parent warns their children to avoid these things.
- We have an obligation to teach sound wisdom to our children from God’s Word and we must also warn our children of what to expect along the way—they will be tempted to sexual sin.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

- This particular lesson is a cautionary tale told to Solomon’s sons with a moral lesson.
- Before getting to the moral of the story of being with the forbidden woman, Solomon gives a stern command on how to deal with sexual temptation, how to safeguard oneself from the forbidden woman.
- V8 Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house.
- That’s the only way to avoid the woman with the honey lips and flattering words that seeks to seduce him into committing sin with her.
- The point is do not get within intimate proximity of the thing or person that can draw you into sexual sin.
- Youthful lusts, if not kept in check, will lead to immoral behavior and incur the dreadful consequences of those actions.
- The best way is to not put before you the very thing that can seduce you away from wisdom’s way!
- The best way to avoid temptation to sin is to not be anywhere near the thing that can draw you into that sin.
- You will never overcome temptation if you entertain temptation.
- *“Do not go near the door of her house.”*
- Solomon tells his son another story in ch 7 of a naive young man who is ensnared after flirting with temptation.
- Proverbs 7:6-9 For at the window of my house I have looked out through my lattice, 7 and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense, 8 passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house 9 in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness.
- Take note of how this senseless young man puts himself in temptation’s way.
- God’s word tells us how to deal with sexual temptation and the solution is often repeated like it is here in Proverbs.
- 2 Timothy 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
- Fleeing, running away from, avoiding, keeping your distance, that is how we deal with sexual temptation.
- 1 Cor. 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.
- Matthew 5:27-30 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.
- Those are drastic measures but the point is the same as Solomon’s.
- Sin doesn’t sneak up on us—unless we want it too.
- Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- Don’t make plans to gratify the sinful desires of your flesh.
- James 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
- Your own carnal desires are what lead you down the path of sexual temptation.
- You need to take practical steps to keep away from the source of what entices you.

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEXUAL SIN

- What follows in 9-14 is what happens to the person who doesn’t keep their way far from the forbidden woman and who approaches her door.
- If the father’s counsel is ignored, despised, and rejected, this is what is going to happen.
- The consequences are multi-layered. They impact all aspects of one’s life.
- There are temporal consequences and there are eternal consequences.
- There are material and social impacts, as well as emotional and physical impacts.
- There is something about sexual sin that has much deeper effects than other sins.
- All sins are equally damning but not all sins have equal consequences.

TEMPORAL CONSEQUENCES

- The word “lest” introduces the negative consequences of not obeying the father’s command.
- He mentions four types of people who will mete out four types of consequences he will face.
- V9 Lest you give your honor to others
- And your years to the merciless

- V10 lest strangers take their fill of your strength
- And your labors go to the house of a foreigner
- Solomon makes it clear that the son who ignores his counsel is personally responsible for all of the terrible consequences that will befall him.
- Sexual sin can have far-reaching impact, not just in your life, but in the life of those closest to you.
- The four types of people are those who will inflict the consequences of the adulterous relationship.
- Remember, the forbidden woman is forbidden because she is not married to you. She is someone else's wife and her husband will come after you.
- In some ancient cultures, the husband of the adulteress wife could seek recompense from the man who committed adultery with her.
- There are some cases in which the husband of the adulteress wife could make the man who committed adultery with her his slave for life.
- The Mosaic law had provisions for stoning to death in cases of adultery.
- Proverbs 6 outlines these economic and punitive consequences.
- Proverbs 6:26-35 ...for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.
- 27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? 28 Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished. 30 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. 32 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. 34 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.
- The man who commits adultery will be financially ruined by the jealous husband.
- What he worked hard for can be taken from him.
- He may have pain inflicted on him at the hands of the merciless.
- The shame he faces and the consequences of his sin will not be over quickly, it will last for a very long time.
- This is self-inflicted punishment for getting involved with the adulteress woman.
- Adultery has devastating consequences.
- When infidelity, adultery and divorce hits marriages the impact of that sin is enormous.
- Solomon is painting this cautionary tale in the most graphic depiction possible.
- Sexual sin will rob you in every way possible. It will take far more from you than the momentary pleasure you may experience.

DO NOT DESPISE DISCIPLINE

- V11 and at the end of your life your groan...
- Bruce Waltke writes of this phrase in his commentary that "*this is a cry of anguish from extreme destitution and exhaustion and represents a payday situation when regret and remorse come too late.*"
- This is a portrait of a man in his old age still living with regret, his body is wasting away, and he comes to the realization that he is responsible for everything that happened to him because he did not listen to his father's counsel.
- "*How I hated discipline and my heart despised reproof!*"
- God disciplines his children because he loves them. He is making them holy like he is.
- This son, however, hated discipline. He had no taste for wisdom. He rejects sound counsel. What a fool!
- **Proverbs 12:1** Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.
- When we reject sound counsel and throw ourselves headlong into our sins, we are demonstrating we hate sound counsel.
- This unfaithful son says, "I didn't listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors."
- This is not ignorance, this is willful rejection of all of the voices of wisdom.
- Do you seek wise counsel and listen to it?
- The wise person is not the one who seeks counsel after they have blown it, they seek counsel before they take actions.
- This despiser of discipline says in v14 he has recognized that he is in utter ruin in the assembled congregation.
- His infidelity was not kept secret. It was made public knowledge. It was brought before the leaders of the community for judgment.
- Adultery brings personal shame, humiliation to loved ones, and a loss of respect in the larger community.
- What a reminder that sexual sin is not just a personal offense, it ruins families, it ruins relationships, and ruins careers.
- There is a lifetime of regret on the other side of a momentary fleeting pleasure.

ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES

- We might be shrewd enough to keep our sin hidden, we may avoid some of the more devastating consequences in this life, but we won't avoid the final judgment that is to come.
- Proverbs 5:21-23 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths. 22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. 23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

- Nothing we do is hidden from the Lord.
- The Lord ponders all of the paths of a man's ways. Our secret sins are not a secret to him.
- The one who doesn't repent of their sins and turns to the Lord and has their sins washed by the blood of Christ, is not only in bondage to their sins, it will lead to their ultimate destruction. The lack of discipline will destroy him in the end.
- Sexual sin will drag you to hell.
- Confess your sins to the Lord and turn to Christ for salvation and forgiveness.

IV. THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

- Paul, writing to the church at Corinth, makes it clear that all manners of sexual sin disinherit us from the kingdom of God.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
- That's the bleak outlook for those who continue in sexual immorality and sexual sin.
- But look at what he follows this list with—our present reality.
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- This is what you used to be. This is what defined you as a sinner.
- But no longer! You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified by Christ and by the Spirit of God!
- Martin Luther wrote of this truth—"Simul Justus et Peccator" It translates from the Latin, "simultaneously just or righteous and sinner".
- These things are both true simultaneously.
- We still have sin, we are still sinners. We are capable of sinning.
- But because of the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us, we are righteous.
- This goes to the essence of the gospel.
- Positionally before God that is what we are—holy and righteous because of Christ's work on our behalf.
- What if we focused more on living out of that righteous identity and reality—we are saints!
- What a motivator to resist all temptation and live lives pleasing to God.