

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 8.21.2022

## THE WISDOM OF MARRIAGE

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### **Proverbs 5:15-23**

15 Drink water from your own cistern,  
flowing water from your own well.

16 Should your springs be scattered abroad,  
streams of water in the streets?

17 Let them be for yourself alone,  
and not for strangers with you.

18 Let your fountain be blessed,  
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,

19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe.

Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;  
be intoxicated always in her love.

20 Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman  
and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

21 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.

### II. THE DESIGN OF MARRIAGE

#### **THE FOUNDATION OF MARRIAGE**

- Genesis 1:27, 28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
- male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- We call this the creation mandate or the dominion mandate. Man and woman, as God's image bearers, are to make more image-bearers, so as to fill the earth.

- It is the way they will exercise dominion over everything else in God's creation and it takes both of them to do that.
- Genesis 2 expands the account of the creation of woman for the man.
- Genesis 2:18; 21-24 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- God fashions from the man, one that corresponds to him, one that is like him, but not exactly like him.
- Marriage was instituted at creation.
- Adam immediately recognizes this and declares the biological imperative of a man leaving his parents, coming together with a woman, and being joined with her in a one-flesh union.
- Jesus himself confirmed that marriage is a creational institution and mandate (Matt. 19:4).
- Paul confirmed this (1Tim. 2:13).
- Peter in his letter implies something similar (1 Peter 3:7).
- Therefore, we can conclude, this is God's plan for humanity.
- Marriage is a covenantal union. It is a union established through sexual intimacy.
- Notice, this was instituted prior to the Fall.
- If this is God's plan for humanity, then the biological urges and drives and sexual desires, are God-given for the fulfillment of the creation mandate, "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...".
- Male and female sexual desire for one another is not inherently sinful.
- In the wisdom of the Creator, he also made the act pleasurable so that we would want to do it.
- Sex is a good thing—it's a God thing. It's not dirty the way God intended it to be.
- Of course post-fall, it's perverted, distorted, abused, but that doesn't negate the fact that God made it good and pleasurable in its proper context.
- Sexual desire towards the opposite sex is part of how God made us—male and female.
- Marriage is the vehicle God created for the expression of the male and female sex drive.
- In its intended context—marriage—sex is right and good and is to be enjoyed.
- Outside of its proper context it is sinful and thus produces the fruit of sin—death.

## FRESH WATER SOURCES

- Solomon uses an allegory to teach his son the antidote to straying off the path of fidelity to his wife.
- He uses a number of words to describe water sources: cistern, well, springs, streams.
- And all of these images are euphemisms for the sexual pleasure found in marriage.
- "Your own cistern"—a cistern was a place to store rainwater. It was hewn out of rocky ground and usually several meters deep.
- "Your own Well"—wells were dug to tap into underground streams of waters and aquifers. This would provide a steady and continuous supply of water.
- Solomon's point with this imagery is that you are to quench your sexual thirst by drinking only from the water that belongs to you—that is your own wife.
- The key to the interpretation is v18 Let your fountain be blessed and rejoice in the wife of your youth.
- You are not to drink from another man's cistern or well.
- You are only to drink from your own flowing waters—that is your own wife. Everything else is off-limits.

- And the idea here is NOT sex for the sake of procreation, but for the sake of enjoyment and pleasure.
- Get pleasure from your own wife.
- If cisterns and wells of life-giving water are so valuable, then how valuable is your own marriage as something worthy of safeguarding and protecting?
- Solomon asks his son a rhetorical question in v16, Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Of course not!
- “Your own springs” is contrasted with the “streams of water in the streets.”
- The street has to do with the public square, the open places where everyone has access. It is where the harlot is. Proverbs 7:12 finds her in the street and in the market, in the common places.
- The home is the place of fresh, clean water. There is a fountain where sexual thirst can be satiated. Drink from there alone!
- Keep the fulfillment of sexual desire to the home, to your own wife. Keep it off the streets.
- Some Biblical scholars believe Solomon is intending to teach his son also the importance of not neglecting his wife so that she won’t let her streams flow out to the streets.
- If he doesn’t take care of the home front and gives in to the forbidden woman, his own wife may seek consolation in the arms of a stranger.
- The beauty of sex within marriage is valuable and is not to be cheapened through infidelity and other sexual sin.
- V17 let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you.
- Find sexual pleasure in the privacy of your own marriage.
- Strangers aren’t to be brought into the marital relationship; not through adultery, not through pornography, not through open marriages or swinging, or any other sexual sin or perversion.
- Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
- Keep the streams of water fresh and clean in your marriage.

### III. THE DELIGHT OF MARRIAGE

- V18 Let your fountain be blessed...
- The fountain is his own wife. Solomon’s prayer and desire is that his son would have a constant source of fresh and sweet water.
- He wants his son to have a wife who can quench his thirst at all times and satisfy his sexual drive and desires.
- A blessed fountain, his own wife, will satisfy him like no other woman can.
- "...and rejoice in the wife of your youth."
- As a consequence of his wife’s blessed state, the son will find joy in her.
- “Of your youth” implies that the son married at a young age. That was common in the culture of that time.
- Common sense and wisdom dictate that marrying earlier in life is better than at a later age for a variety of reasons.
- V19 Solomon uses poetic language to describe a beautiful wife, as in Song of Solomon.
- His culture used animal imagery as metaphors for erotic romance and lovemaking between a man and a woman.
- “V19a A lovely deer, a graceful doe...” The doe was considered to be a graceful and beautiful creature.
- Read Song of Solomon chap 4 and 7 for the imagery used to convey his bride’s beauty and select features of her anatomy.
- “Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight...”
- This feature of the female anatomy is not only for nursing infants but also for giving the husband pleasure in lovemaking.
- "...at all times..." Her lovemaking is to be satisfying and unending.
- “Be intoxicated always in her love.”

- The Hebrew word translated as “intoxicated” means to go astray.
  - The husband is so enraptured by his wife’s lovemaking that it leaves him staggering like a drunk man.
  - He is totally caught up with her. He is swept up with delight in his own wife.
  - Notice the phrases “at all times” and “always”.
  - The blessed wife’s lovemaking should always be available to quench her husband’s thirst and leave him intoxicated!
  - Wives, you are one of the most important deterrents to a husband drifting from his marital covenant.
  - Tremper Longman, writes in his short commentary on Proverbs, “*The best defense against committing adultery is a strong offense in marriage.*”
  - And that means the way to guard against unfaithfulness is to go on the offense by having regular sex within the marital relationship.
- V20 Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?
  - It’s absurd to be involved with the forbidden woman when you are caught up in delight with your own wife!
  - Your desire should be for your wife alone and that should be motivation enough for faithfulness.

#### IV. SOME PRACTICAL POINTS

- Sexual intimacy in marriage is so important, not just to have children, but because it binds you together with your spouse in a way that you are not bound with anyone else.
  - You must develop this part of your marriage.
  - It takes practice, it takes communication, it takes understanding.
- Married men, you have a responsibility in keeping your fountain blessed. Make sure you are preserving the purity of your marriage.
  - Build your wife up. Encourage her, cherish her, speak grace-filled words to her.
  - Lead and love your wife in such a way that she is a blessed fountain.
- Wives, build your husband up. When they come home from a hard day’s work, make sure things are in order and be available to him. Don’t nag. Speak to him respectfully honoring him as your husband.
- When both spouses work outside of the home and they have children, it becomes increasingly more difficult to keep the fires of intimacy lit. Make sure you are talking about this and figuring out ways to make it happen.
- Rekindle romance.
- Try to get away somewhere without the kids. Establish some type of date night with your spouse.
- Live out the “one-anothers” that the NT commands with your spouse is huge.
- Don’t sleep in separate bedrooms.
- Do not deprive one another of sexual intimacy. Ever!
  - 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
  - Here’s the point—a sexless marriage should never exist.
  - Now If there are physical reasons, like sickness and disability that makes having sex not possible, that is outside of the scope of what Paul is writing about here.

- Each man and woman should marry so they do not give in to the temptation to sexual immorality.
  - And so that neither the husband or the wife get tempted to sin sexually, each should give to the other what is due—their conjugal rights.
  - Because of the one-flesh union, the wife belongs to the husband and the husband belongs to the wife. The wife's body belongs to the husband and the husband's body belongs to the wife.
  - V5 Do no deprive one another... that's the standing order.
  - Exception: you have agreed to not have sex for a limited time, maybe to devote time to prayer and seeking the Lord. That's it!
  - But come back together quickly so that Satan may not tempt you.
  - It's dangerous to withhold sex from each other.
  - If you're not having sex regularly in marriage that's a danger sign.
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- Now there are some wives who manipulate their husband with the promise of sex in order to get their way or to get something.
  - And there are some wives who withhold sex from their husband as a means to punish him for not being who they want them to be or doing something they want them to do.
  - Both of those are sinful and the spouse who employs these tactics must repent.
  - Sex in marriage must never be used as a transactional tool.
  - You belong to your spouse. Your spouse has a right to have sex. It is his or her right.
  - It is what can deter them from sexual sin and infidelity. It is the antidote to adultery.