

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 9.11.2022

## DON'T BE A DIMWIT

### I. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO WISDOM

#### **Proverbs 7:1-27**

1 My son, keep my words

and treasure up my commandments with you;

2 keep my commandments and live;

keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;

3 bind them on your fingers;

write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"

and call insight your intimate friend,

5 to keep you from the forbidden woman,

from the adulteress with her smooth words.

- This lesson focuses on exposing the seductive tactics of the forbidden woman, the adulteress.
- This is a poetic drama of the seduction of what Bruce Waltke calls in his commentary, a gullible dimwit.
- This gullible dimwit faces danger from the forbidden woman.
  
- As with many of the lessons, this one has the familiar structure.
- It is addressed to Solomon's son, a young man, who is most likely already married.
- Like a good and godly parent, he exhorts his son to keep and guard the teachings of wisdom.
- V2 keep my commandments and live.
- Wisdom provides us guardrails by which we find freedom and life.
  
- Solomon highlights the preciousness of his teaching when he commands his son to "keep my teaching as the apple of your eye..."
- We use that term when we are referring to someone who is extremely precious to us.
- The Lord refers to his people as the apple of his eye (Deut 32:10; Zech 2:8)
- The Hebrew word we translate as that phrase in English means "pupil," literally, "little man reflected in the eye."

- It is a Hebrew expression for when you see yourself in that tiny reflection in another's person's pupils.
  - Your image is what they are focusing on, it is central in the eyes of that person.
  - That's what God's Word and the teachings of wisdom need to be, the apple of your eye.
  - It is a treasure of incomparable worth. It is exceedingly precious and must always be kept before you.
- He underscores the importance of keeping wisdom central by commanding his son to "bind" these teachings on his fingers.
  - Most importantly, he must "write them on the tablet of his heart."
  - The Word must be hidden in the heart, memorized, and internalized.
  - Get God's Word into your heart!
- Solomon uses the personal metaphor of marriage now for his teaching.
  - V 4 Say to wisdom, "you are my sister," and call insight your intimate friend.
  - "Sister" was a term of endearment for one's beloved.
  - Song of Solomon 4:9-10 You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. 10 How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!
  - The son is to commit himself to wisdom as a husband commits himself to his bride.
  - He must have an intimate and personal relationship with wisdom so that he will be protected from the dangerous and seductive enticements of the unchaste wife.
- V5 to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words.
  - Here is the purpose for all of that keeping, to be kept from the smooth talking adulteress.
  - If we keep to the way of wisdom, wisdom will keep us from the way of the adulteress.
- The forbidden woman is the incarnation of every rival word to the father's teaching.
  - Everything that is contrary to God's Word, everything that stands against wisdom, is the forbidden woman.
  - This is why this lesson is so applicable to us because it contains the blueprint of temptation.
- Bottom line—we must have a personal relationship with wisdom—which is Christ.
  - We cannot hope to walk in wisdom in this world without being in right relationship with Jesus.

## II. DON'T BE DECEIVED LIKE THE DIMWIT

### PROVERBS 7:6-20

**6** 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.  
**10** And behold, the woman meets him,  
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.  
**11** She is loud and wayward;  
her feet do not stay at home;  
**12** now in the street, now in the market,  
and at every corner she lies in wait.  
**13** She seizes him and kisses him,  
and with bold face she says to him,  
**14** “I had to offer sacrifices,  
and today I have paid my vows;  
**15** so now I have come out to meet you,  
to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.  
**16** I have spread my couch with coverings,  
colored linens from Egyptian linen;  
**17** I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,  
aloes, and cinnamon.  
**18** Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;  
let us delight ourselves with love.  
**19** For my husband is not at home;  
he has gone on a long journey;  
**20** he took a bag of money with him;  
at full moon he will come home.”

- Solomon will tell a story from his vantage point as an observer.
- The father is in his home.
- “At the window of my house, I have looked out through my lattice...”
- The father’s house is the house of wisdom.
- The father is observing and seeing the world as it truly is.
- Outside of the house of wisdom is the world in all its lies.
- Wisdom affords you clarity, discernment, insight, and understanding.
- The father is operating from a different world and life view than those he is observing.

- When we internalize God's Word, it shapes our life. We see things as they really are.
  - Why? Because God's Word is truth. Truth is that which corresponds with reality.
  - Everything God has revealed to us in His Word gives us the lens for which to evaluate every truth claim in the world.
  - Everything is a truth claim.
  - And every truth claim that contradicts, opposes, or diminishes THE TRUTH, is a lie and a declaration of war against the Creator.
- The father sees a young man lacking sense—our gullible dimwit.
  - He sees someone who has not committed to wisdom.
  - And this is why he will be easy prey to temptation.
- Throughout this narrative, you will see application for how to avoid temptation as we imagine the scene drawn out for us.
  - v8 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.
  - The dimwit is demonstrating his complete lack of sense because he is unaware of the danger of making his way to her house, moving closer to her, through ever darkening streets.
  - He lacks the sense to not put himself in harm's way by straying on to her path.
- We cannot have a casual view of sin. We cannot play around with temptation.
  - The dimwit is taking a stroll that is a descent into ever-increasing darkness.
  - He starts in the daylight, he is moving towards her house, and things are getting darker.
  - Darkness also provides cover for the sin to play out. No one can see him in the dark.
  - We are more susceptible to temptation's allure when we are isolated, by ourselves, when it's dark. Where no one will see us.
  - Isolation and idleness are two things to be cautious of.
  - When you isolate yourself from other believers, when you don't fellowship with other Christians, you are more susceptible to temptation.
  - Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
  - When you are not busy and have too much time on your hands, it is a lot easier to entertain temptation.
- V10 And behold, the woman meets him..."
  - Now we are introduced to the black widow, the one who will ensnare the gullible dimwit and take him to an early death.
  - The father vividly exclaims her entrance into the story and he characterizes her by her bold approach, her bold attire, her brazen speech and manner.
  - This is a characterization of temptation today.
  - This is a married woman dressed like a prostitute.
  - She is immodest.
  - She is wily of heart. That means she is cunning of heart. All of this is meant to deceive.
  - The son must hide wisdom in his heart because he is going to meet a woman like this and he won't stand a chance against her if he abandons wisdom.
- V11 She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home.
  - She is unruly and restless. She has no roots at home or in the family.

- This is completely opposite of the peaceful woman that wisdom values highly.
  - 1 Peter 3:1-4 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.
  - The forbidden woman is loud, restless, brazen, immodest, unruly, and cunning.
  - The godly woman in contrast is pure of conduct, modest in her attire prioritizing internal beauty, having a gentle and quiet spirit, which God highly values.
- V12 this forbidden woman is everywhere, in the street, in the market, every corner lying in wait.
  - She is a huntress, she is stalking her prey, she is lying in ambush, ready to pounce on her gullible victim.
  - She seizes him and kisses him. That is brazen.
  - There is nothing romantic here. This is lust plain and simple.
- V14-20 are seven lines from the adulteress that are dripping with deceit and false promises, meant to veil her intentions.
  - V14 “I had to offer sacrifices...” She presents herself as a religious devotee.
  - She covers her lust with religious motivations.
- V15 so now I have come to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I found you.
  - Sin always finds the gullible. The ones who lack wisdom.
  - She makes him feel special like she was always wanting him.
- V16-17 She tells him of all the special preparations she has made in anticipation of them being together.
  - She is detailing things that play into the sensual fantasy the gullible dimwit has imagined.
  - Our flesh and the devil tells us that we deserve these things. It's ok to indulge yourself in fleshly pursuits.
  - Watch out for the rival words of sin and the world.
- V18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning...
  - After painting the scene for him, she invites him to engage in the sinful act.
  - She calls it love, but it's not love, it's adultery.
  - His love should be for his own wife, he should be delighting in the wife of his youth.
  - She should be faithful to her own husband.
- V19-20 And here is the final piece of the trap of sin, the promise of no consequences.
  - And notice, all she says is that they can get away with it because her husband isn't at home.
  - She isn't trying to convince him that adultery is sinful and immoral.
  - And she isn't planning to leave her husband for this dimwitted fool.
  - All she's doing is removing the final barrier to the temptation—the fear of exposure, the fear of being found out.
- That's the promise of sin—no consequences.
  - Every temptation to sin is a lie. There are always consequences to sin.

### III. DON'T BE DESTROYED LIKE THE DIMWIT

#### PROVERBS 7:21-23

**21** With much seductive speech she persuades him;

with her smooth talk she compels him.

**22** All at once he follows her,

as an ox goes to the slaughter,

or as a stag is caught fast

**23** till an arrow pierces its liver;

as a bird rushes into a snare;

he does not know that it will cost him his life.

- V21 The rival words, the honey lips, the smooth, seductive talk, turns him aside.
- Everything she told him presented a different world and life view than that of the father's.
- He was deceived and taken in by her smooth talk.
- But there are always consequences to sin.
- And the worst part is, "He doesn't know it will cost him his life."
- The wages of sin is death. And he doesn't even know it!
- Because the dimwit acted without reflection, because he didn't evaluate beforehand the consequences of his actions, because he followed his fleshly impulses, "All at once"—suddenly he met his demise.
- He is compared to an ox, a stag, and a bird—these animals ignorantly walk into traps, meet the arrow of the hunter, or are too dumb to know they are being led to the slaughterhouse.
- Morally stupid people don't see the connection between their own sin and death.
- Do not be deceived, every sin has consequences.
- When you are tempted, remember that sin's promises are empty, sin always overpromises and under delivers.
- You will lose more than you will gain.

### IV. LISTEN TO WISDOM NOT THE WORLD

#### PROVERBS 7:24-27

**24** And now, O sons, listen to me,

and be attentive to the words of my mouth.

**25** Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;

do not stray into her paths,

**26** for many a victim has she laid low,

and all her slain are a mighty throng.

**27** Her house is the way to Sheol,

going down to the chambers of death.

- If he doesn't listen to lady wisdom, he will follow woman folly.
- His heart will be turned aside to her ways.
- *"Do not stray into her paths."*
- Don't play with temptation.
- If you give in, you won't escape sin's consequences.
- Proverbs 6:27-28 Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?
- When we are led by our desires and carnal impulses, seeking after momentary pleasure, when we fail to guard our heart, we are moving away from wisdom, not towards it.
- James 1:14-15 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
- Death is the inevitable outcome.
  
- V26-27 Her way is the highway to hell.
- She has defeated many a victim. Her slain are a mighty throng.
- She has taken out people far stronger than you.

## CONCLUSION

- Solomon paints the picture of all manner of temptation and rival words of wisdom in the language of the sexual sin of adultery.
- It speaks of infidelity and the breaking of the covenant union.
- We are the covenant breakers. We have been the unfaithful bride. We are the unfaithful dimwit.
- But God in his faithfulness, because he can never break the covenant he has made with his people, purchased a bride for his Son.
- And this bride is redeemed. She was unfaithful and made faithful by the faithfulness of Christ.
- **Ephesians 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- That's what Christ, the wisdom of God, has done for us. He gave himself to purchase us, to sanctify us, to cleanse us by his blood and his Word, and we his betrothed, will be united with him forever, in splendor, perfect and holy.
- The formerly unfaithful will be the forever faithful.
- Keep that image before you when you are tempted to sin.
- May the glory and reality of those truths enable you to counter all of the rival words of the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- And may you keep Christ as the apple of your eye.