

Suz's Proverbs 7 Notes

- 10:03/6:33 Welcome and Renee R's announcement
10:05/6:35 Opening Prayer
10:07/6:37 Brief Recap
10:08/6:39 Wisdom Warm-Up (13 minutes + feedback time)

1. In the last 24 hours, what is one temptation (any type) you have faced?
2. What do you think is at the root of the sexual sin of our day, in our culture? Be sure your answer keeps in mind the Biblical truth, "Mercy triumphs over judgment" from last week.
3. What do you know about how Jesus dealt with sexual sin?
4. David looked, lingered, lusted, and was lost when he intertwined his life with Bathsheba. What do you think is the most dangerous part of that sequence? See 2 Samuel 11,12.

- 10:30/7:00 The Bible Project: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
10:39/7:09 Our Chapter: 7

Don't disengage with this chapter just because you haven't had an affair. Think more broadly about this chapter. It's about seduction into sin, and every one of us can relate to that. Also, don't freak out because this is about a female sinner/predator; the tables could easily be turned and it could be a man doing the seducing. Remember, in context this is a manual for skillful living written from father to son.

7:1-5: Listen! Value of living skillfully with wisdom and introduction of our topic: the two people who become in sexual sin, sin as a transaction rather as an expression of intimacy in a committed marriage, as God created it to be.

Two clear paths: God's path (reward, blessing) and the other path (consequences, strife, destruction)

Who are your trusted voices? Are you listening??? Are you at a fork in the road? What are the paths you could choose between?

6-9: the Setting ... or you could say, the set-up.
A youth who lacked judgment was walking along the street near her house at twilight.

Definition of simple in Proverbs: void of understanding, believe every word, tending toward bad sense, lack wisdom, foolish

Metaphor: *The dark of night setting in* is a metaphor for temptation coming on, especially when we are weak and weary from the day and our guard is down. **What tends to be your weakest time of day or night? How can you strengthen yourself at that time?** Be specific. Be real!

[My story of listening to the one prostitute who crossed the street.]

10-13 Characteristics of the Seducer

- 10 dressed like a prostitute [what's appropriate?]
10 with crafty intent: *cunning. A watchful observer; who keeps and guards secrets; one who blockades.* [mind blowing!!!] AA saying: "You're as sick as your secrets, and your secrets will keep you sick."
11 loud and defiant (rebellious, stubborn; root words: one who morally turns away, slides back or withdraws)
11 Her feet never stay at home [counter-cultural comment for his day. Today I would say, she's intentionally avoiding being the woman God wants her to be, whether at work or at home.]
12 the seducer lurks, looking for her next victim; stalker [lies in wait, ambush]. Genesis 4:7: "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you [#4910: rule, obtain dominion over, gain control, master, have authority], but you must rule over it."
13 brazen, forward [brazen: #5810: bold, mighty, prevailed, strong] [#2388: she seizes him; to grow firm or strong. As she talks to him, she grows stronger with her encouragement to sin]

What is a blockade to your godly path? Who is blockading your way to walk on a godly path?

What has surprised you in an unguarded moment, seized you, and feels like its growing stronger, encouraging you away from the godly path?

14-20 Seductive Words

- 14 "I'm all caught up on my religious duties." Religion vs intimacy.
15 "I looked for you and found you!" Makes the person feel wanted.
16,17 Allure of pleasure: fine perfumed linens on the bed in anticipation of great, illicit sexual pleasures
18 Invitation; confusing a sexual transaction with love
19,20 No threat from the seducer's spouse; illusion of freedom, lack of consequence, secrecy

How do you justify your sin? What seductive words, what excuses have you heard to leave the godly, more difficult, more disciplined path?

What weaknesses do you have that make you easy prey?

What illusions of freedom are you grasping so you can have your own way?

What lies are you confusing with truth? Sex with love? Eating too much or too little with comfort or false discipline? A fake life with what's acceptable to God?

21-23 Final Observations

- 21 The seducer led him astray with persuasive, seductive smooth talk
22 All at once he gave in

22,23 Similes: Ox to slaughter
deer into noose till he's shot
bird into snare

Little knowing it will cost him his life.

In what area of your life have you stood strong, yet feel vulnerable to "all at once" giving in?

Warning! **Watch your appetites:** food (Jacob & Esau in Genesis 25:29-33), sex (Solomon in 1 Kings 11:1-4+), physical pleasures, sleep, talk, entertainment, greed for things (Gen 13:10-13), admiration, and ambition/power (Luke 4:5-8).

24-27 Solomon's Conclusions

24 Listen. Pay attention.
25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.
26 Many and mighty are her victims
27 Her house is a highway to the grave
leading down to the chambers of death

There are two clear paths: one that leads to a skillfully-lived life, the other to the grave.

Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, Mt 7, Luke 13:
Enter by the narrow gate,
for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many are those entering through it.
Small is the gate and compressed is the way leading to life and few are those finding it.

Facing Temptation

Matthew 4:1 - Temptation is not sin. Jesus was led out to be tempted

Matthew 6:13 - lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Romans 7:24 - who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 11:26 - Jesus is called "the One delivering"

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted [tested] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted [tested], he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

11:00/7:30 -Workable Wisdom-

11:18/7:48 -Quiet-

Write a prayer based on Proverbs 7 and Romans 8:5-11.

11:23/7:53 -Jesus-

Jesus is the wisdom of God, everything we could ever ask for, more than we could ever fathom.

My story of the prostitute on our street, and then seeing her on the bicycle:

It started with an early morning walk with Wiley. *Early* in this neighborhood is anything before ten, which makes me giggle. So NOT West Knoxville. So at 8:42 AM, Wiley and I cross paths with the prostitute I see most often — few front teeth, half her head shaved, and always wearing spandex leggings/tights. Today she was absentmindedly pounding each booty-bun as she walked ... left hand smacking her left booty cheek, then right hand on her right cheek, rhythmically striding down North Olive.

Then on the way home, out of the corner of my eye, a woman on a bike came flying by — and it was the prostitute, a huge smile showing all the gaps in her teeth, and she gasped, “Scuze me,” and I yelled, “Have fun!” and she was gone. I’m so glad she was on that bike.

Jesus interacted with a prostitute and shows us higher wisdom.
John 8:2-11:

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. **3** The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group **4** and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. **5** In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” **6** They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. **7** When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” **8** Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. **10** Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Clearly wrong, condemned, calloused, cornered captive, and cold: am I referring to the woman or to the men who caught her?

Freedom for the sinner
through truth
that comes through faith in Jesus.

We all need that. More grace, more truth,
to help us stay on the good path
and enter through the narrow gate.

Give grace and truth to each other today, encouraging each other to
resist temptation and seduction into sin,
in the Mighty Name of Jesus.