



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | Proverbs 1:8-19

1 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.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 1:8-19

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Recently, I was having a conversation about the foods we were raised eating. This led to many other conversations such as were you expected to make a "happy plate," or did your parents make a special meal knowing you didn't care for what was served? I immediately thought of this word; entice. A few months ago, I found myself persuading one of my kids to eat a veggie-filled meal because it was Asian inspired, which was a culture that fascinated him. What he wouldn't touch before was now appealing. As a mom, my motivation was to introduce my family to something that was both delicious and healthy. This section of Proverbs shows us that there are some who entice us to follow fleeting pleasures the world has to offer.

As we begin reading, we are given a statement for the son to hear his father's instruction and listen to his mother's teaching. It even compares this act of obedience to the beauty of fine jewelry. Then, there is a warning of being enticed, which can be defined as to "attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage." This father teaches his son to not give consent to those who try to lure him. The picture we gain is a father who loves his son so much that he desires to impart wisdom in pursuing the Lord. As parents, we desire for our children to walk in a manner worthy of the calling of Christ (Colossians 1:10). What about our own hearts and minds? What would you say entices you? Do



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you find yourself in bad company, or do you surround yourself with people who desire to follow the Lord? Second Timothy 2:22 says, "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

Just as this father instructs his child and desires him to walk uprightly, the Lord desires the same for his children. We have a perfect example of obedience in Jesus. He did not have to be persuaded to obey His father. He knew the cost of forgiveness was great, yet his love was greater. There are times where we wander and follow our own will, and the Lord is waiting for us to return to His perfect instruction. The world entices in many ways: a certain social status, comfort, image/name for yourself, food. Don't get lured, but instead, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

Questions:

1. One of the definitions of "discipline" says: to train or develop by instruction and exercise, especially in self-control. Who do you allow to train or develop you?
2. Read Hebrews 12:7-11. How does this passage describe discipline?
3. Are there things that entice you, and draw you away from full pursuit of the Lord? If so, confess your struggles to someone in your Journey Group.