

SIN'S SEDUCTION

Monday, November 24

Reading: Proverbs 6:20 – 7:27

Proverbs 6:27 *Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?* **28** *Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?* **29** *So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.*

Proverbs now returns to warnings about “the wayward woman.” These warnings are given to sons, but I am sure that girls were given similar warnings against wayward men as well. That Solomon spends so much time on this topic stresses the great danger to one’s self and society that immorality brings. While Solomon focuses on adultery with a married woman, the principles can be applied to all sexual relations outside of marriage.

The danger of immorality begins in the heart (6:24-35). We are told to “not lust in your heart after her beauty.” An unexpected glance or thought can become sin when we let it linger in our minds. “Nothing feeds adultery like fantasy. Imagination, savoring in the soul the delights of an unlawful partner, is the fuel by which immorality is fired.”² Solomon uses several word pictures to describe the cost of adultery. (1) Playing with Prostitutes (6:26) – This is not condoning prostitution but is saying that they will only cost you their fee while adultery messes up your whole life. (2) Playing with Fire (6:27-29) – You can’t play with fire without being burned. So too adultery will bring punishment and loss (16:33-35). (3) Playing the Thief (6:30-32) – A thief must repay even if he steals to feed himself. But a person who ‘steals’ another man’s wife is stupid and can never repay the debt.

Solomon relates a detailed story of a simple young man and a temptress (7:6-23). Notice several important principles from this story: (1) He is in the Wrong Place (7-12). We are foolish when we knowingly put ourselves in places and situations that will tempt us. (2) Sin Looks Good (13-18). This woman makes herself sound religious (“vows/fellowship offering”). She has put out her best to make herself attractive to her prey. So sin is always appealing but the end result is disaster. (3) Sin “Promises” That You Won’t Get Caught (19-20). However, this is a lie.

“The young fellow is like putty in her hands...Soon his head is filled with fantasies of a night of pleasure. He hesitates – he knows he really shouldn’t – then suddenly (“all at once”), his mind is made up. He follows her. To her house? To the vestibule of Sheol! (v. 27) For a night of pleasure? For his own funeral!”² Instead of an evening of pleasure, this young man is like a senseless animal led to the slaughter (7:21-23).

Solomon began with a positive plea to follow wisdom’s path (7:1-5). He ends with a negative warning to avoid sexual sin at all costs (7:24-27). Again his focus is on not letting “your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.”

Why does God put so much stress on marital fidelity? In the New Testament, the husband/wife relationship is used to picture Christ’s relationship with His Church (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5; Revelation 21). A Christian marriage should testify to the world of the love of Christ.

¹ David A. Hubbard. Proverbs (The Preacher’s Commentary, vol 15), 107

² Kenneth T. Aitken. Proverbs (The Daily Study Bible series), p. 75