



FOOL PROOF
THE WISDOM OF PROVERBS

Don't Be Lured to Your Death
Proverbs 7

Proverbs 7

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_[b] with her smooth words. 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,

Proverbs 7

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. 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.”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.

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.

- **No one gets off the hook with Proverbs 7**
- **There is a temptation to think this passage is for someone else**
- **Ask the Lord to reveal how this applies to you personally**

1. Temptation is closer than you think - v. 6

Proverbs 7:6

For at the window of my house

I have looked out through my lattice,

- **This adulterous woman wasn't across town or hidden away in some dank alley**
- **She is on the opposite side of the curtains**
- **The reality is that the adulteress is a neighbor that we are well acquainted with**
- **Knowing her has enabled the author to walk in wisdom, discretion, and vigilance**

2. Lack of discipline leads towards danger - v. 7-9

Proverbs 7:7-9

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.

This young man was lacking sense, devoid of self-understanding and awareness

Passing along the street near her corner... taking the road to her house... at night...

- **This is a bad idea**

- **Lest we condemn him and give ourselves a hall pass remember we do the same thing - just maybe not in the same way**

3. Sin is relentless - v. 10-13a

Proverbs 7:10–13

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,

- **Lie in wait predator - also called ambush predators**

- **She behaves exactly like an ambush predator**

- **v. 13 - she seizes him**

- **But instead of devouring him, she kisses him**

- **She catches his gaze - he looks at her**

- **She makes physical contact**

- **She figures out how to use his own body chemistry against him**

- **Our temptation is custom fit for us and attacks from all sides**

**4. Temptation will try to convince you it is of the Lord -
v. 13b-15**

Proverbs 7:13–15

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.

The first thing that she says to this guy is that she had to offer sacrifices

- **She is planting the idea that she is a good and godly person**

- **Temptation will try to fool us into thinking that what we are about to indulge in is from the Lord**

- **Genesis 3 - The Fall**

5. Sin, on the surface, will be attractive - v. 16-21

Proverbs 7:16–21

**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.” 21 With much seductive
speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she
compels him.**

- **Temptation will not point us towards something that we would categorically reject**
- **It will be something we are already prone to desire**
- **She has appealed to all five of this young man's senses:**
 - **She gets his SIGHT**
 - **She gets his HEARING**
 - **She gets his TOUCH**
 - **She gets his TASTE**
 - **She gets his SMELL**
 - **This is why we need Wisdom as our sixth sense**

6. Embracing sin always causes death - v. 22-23 & 26-27

Proverbs 7:22–23

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.

Proverbs 7:26–27

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.

- **The scene changes dramatically - like a dream changes suddenly**
- **When we reject the Lord and embrace sin, the end result is always the same - death**
- Romans 6:23 - **the wages of sin is death**

How do we keep from repeating the mistakes of this foolish young man in Prov 7?

7. Keeping oneself from Temptation - vv. 1-5 & 24-25

Proverbs 7:1–5

7 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_[b] with her smooth words.

Proverbs 7:24–25

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,

- **No one plans to screw their life up**
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- **They screw their life up because they didn't plan not to**
- **1. Cherish Christ and His Word above everything else**
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- **He is better than even the best things in your life**

- **2. Be a person of action**

- **Look at the action words here in vv. 1-5 and 25-25**

- **3. Stay as close to the Lord as you can**

- **Hebrew Idiom: “little man in your eye”**

- **Be so close to the Lord, that His reflection would appear in our eye**

It is impossible for the adulteress to:

- **Grab our sight - when our gaze is locked in on Him**
- **Whisper into our ears as the Lord is singing loudly over us**
- **Arrest our touch while we are resting comfortably in the Father's arms**
- **Lure our taste, when we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good**
- **Draw our nose when we have the breath of God flowing through our lungs**