

Proverbs Series

Lesson #016

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

Prov. 14:12, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs

Guide for Skillful Living

DEATH

LIFE

**“Sexual Licentiousness:
The Path of Destruction”
Proverbs 5:1–23; 6:24–35;
7:1–27**

10 Lessons on Wisdom: Prov. 1:8–9:18

- 6. Instruction on how to run well, and seize life, and stay off the human viewpoint road, 4:10–19**
- 7. Warning against swerving from the right road, 4:20–27**
- 8. The emptiness of free sex; the wisdom of marriage, 5:1–23**

Insight: Three patterns you don't want to imitate, 6:1–19

9. The high cost of a promiscuous wife, 6:20–35

10. The promiscuous wife's seductive tactics, 7:1–27

Two closing appendices:

a. Wisdom's appeal to the open minded, 8:1–36

**b. The conflict between the wise and the fools,
9:1–18**

**Prov. 5:1, “My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding,**

**Prov. 5:2, “That you may preserve discretion, and
your lips may keep knowledge.”**

Warning to the son of marriageable age.

Mishneh, Pirke Avot 5:21:

He would say, “(1) At five to Scripture, (2) ten to Mishnah, (3) thirteen to religious duties, (4) fifteen to Talmud, (5) eighteen to the wedding canopy, (6) twenty to responsibility for providing for a family, (7) thirty to fullness of strength, (8) forty to understanding, (9) fifty to counsel, (10) sixty to old age, (11) seventy to ripe old age, (12) eighty to remarkable strength, (13) ninety to a bowed back, and (14) at a hundred— he is like a corpse who has already passed and gone from this world.”

Prov. 5:1, “My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding,

Prov. 5:2, “That you may preserve discretion, And
your lips may keep knowledge.”

קָשַׁב *qashav*

hif imper masc sing

“to attend, listen”

cf., 4:20

נָטָה *natah*

hif imper masc sing

“to stretch out”

Incline your ear

**Prov. 5:1, “My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding,**

**Prov. 5:2, “That you may preserve discretion, And
your lips may keep knowledge.”**

שמר *shamar*

**qal imper masc
sing**

**“to keep, watch,
preserve”**

מְזִמָּה *mezimma*

“purpose, discretion”

Prov. 5:1, “My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding,

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“to keep, watch,
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מְזִמָּה *mezimma*

“purpose, discretion”

נָצַר (*nātzar*) I, *watch,*
guard, keep

Gen. 39:11, “But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

Gen. 39:12, “that she caught him by his garment, saying, ‘Lie with me.’ But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.”

2 Sam. 12:9, “Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

2 Sam. 12:10, “Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.”

The Women Described

Prov. 5:3, “For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil;”

זָרַ zar “stranger”

The Women Described

Hebrew terms:

אִשָּׁה זָרָה *ishah zarah* The strange woman, immoral woman

נְכַרִי *nokrî* foreign, strange

Prov. 2:16, “To deliver you from the **immoral woman**, From the **seductress** who flatters with her words,”

Prov. 7:5, “That they may keep you from the **immoral woman**, From the **seductress** who flatters with her words.”

אִשֶׁת רָעָה *ishet ra'* evil woman

זָנָה *zānâ* commit fornication, be a harlot, play the harlot

Prov. 9:13,” A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing.

Prov. 9:14, “For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city,

Prov. 9:15, “To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way:

Prov. 9:16, “ ‘Whoever is simple, let him turn in here’; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,”

כְּסִילוּת (*k^lsîlût*) stupidity, foolish.

The adulteress is described as a sexual predator:

Prov. 22:14, “The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; He who is abhorred by the LORD will fall there.”

Prov. 23:27, “For a harlot is a deep pit, And a seductress is a narrow well.

Prov. 23:28, “She also lies in wait as for a victim, And increases the unfaithful among men.”

Prov. 7:9, “In the twilight, in the evening, In the black and dark night.

Prov. 7:10, “And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty [‘cunning, wily’] heart.

Prov. 7:11, “She was loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home.

Prov. 7:12, “At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner.

Prov. 7:13, “So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him:”

The Men Described

Prov. 6:32, “Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding [‘lacks heart’ cf., 10:13];

Prov. 7:7, “And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, A young man devoid of understanding [brainless],”

Enticement

Prov. 7:14, “I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows.

Prov. 7:15, “So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you.

Prov. 7:16, “I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen.”

Prov. 7:17, “I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloe, and cinnamon.

Prov. 7:18, “Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love.

Prov. 7:19, “For my husband is not at home; He has gone on a long journey;”

**Prov. 7:20, “He has taken a bag of money with him,
And will come home on the appointed day.**

**Prov. 7:21, “With her enticing speech she caused him
to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him.”**

**Prov. 5:3, “For the lips of an immoral woman drip
honey,
And her mouth is smoother than oil;”**

**Prov. 6:25, “Do not lust after her beauty in your heart,
Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.”**

**Prov. 9:17, “Stolen water is sweet,
And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”**

The Prohibitions

**Prov. 5:6, “Lest you ponder her path of life—
Her ways are unstable;
You do not know them.**

**Prov. 5:7, “Therefore hear me now, my children,
And do not depart from the words of my mouth.**

**Prov. 5:8, “Remove your way far from her,
And do not go near the door of her house,”**

Prov. 7:5, “That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words.”

Prov. 31:3, “Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings.”

1 Cor. 6:18, “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”

**The Consequences:
Social, Economic, and Personal
Spiritual Consequences**

**Prov. 5:4, “But in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.**

**Prov. 5:5, “Her feet go down to death,
Her steps lay hold of hell.”**

**Prov. 5:9, “Lest you give your honor to others,
And your years to the cruel one;**

**Prov. 5:10, “Lest aliens be filled with your wealth,
And your labors go to the house of a foreigner;”**

**Prov. 5:11, “And you mourn at last,
When your flesh and your body are consumed,**

**Prov. 5:12, “And say: ‘How I have hated instruction,
And my heart despised correction!**

**Prov. 5:13, “ ‘I have not obeyed the voice of my
teachers,
Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!**

**Prov. 5:14, “ ‘I was on the verge of total ruin, In the
midst of the assembly and congregation.’ ”**

Prov. 6:32, “Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.

Prov. 6:33, “Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.”

**Prov. 6:26, “For by means of a harlot
A man is reduced to a crust of bread;
And an adulteress [lit. a man’s wife] will prey upon
his precious life.”**

**Prov. 29:3, “Whoever loves wisdom makes his father
rejoice,
But a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.”**

Prov. 6:27, “Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned?”

Prov. 6:28, “Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?”

Prov. 6:29, “So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.”

National Consequence

Jer. 5:7, “How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, Then they committed adultery And assembled themselves by troops in the harlots’ houses.

Jer. 5:8, “They were like well-fed lusty stallions; Every one neighed after his neighbor’s wife.”

Jer. 7:9, “Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know,

Jer. 7:10, “and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations’?”

Jer. 23:10, “For the land is full of adulterers; For because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, And their might is not right.”

**The Corrective:
Remain Faithful to Your Wife**

**Prov. 5:15, “Drink water from your own cistern,
And running water from your own well.**

**Prov. 5:16, “Should your fountains be dispersed
abroad,
Streams of water in the streets?**

**Prov. 5:17, “Let them be only your own,
And not for strangers with you.**

**Prov. 5:18, “Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice with the wife of your youth.”**

**Prov. 5:17, “Let them be only your own,
And not for strangers with you.**

**Prov. 5:18, “Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice with the wife of your youth.**

**Prov. 5:19, “As a loving deer and a graceful doe,
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
And always be enraptured with her love.”**

The Concluding Warning

**Prov. 5:21, “For the ways of man are before the eyes
of the LORD,
And He ponders all his paths.**

**Prov. 5:22, “His own iniquities entrap the wicked man,
And he is caught in the cords of his sin.**

**Prov. 5:23, “He shall die for lack of instruction,
And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.”**

Gal. 5:19, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

Gal. 5:21, “envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

1 Cor. 6:9, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1 Cor. 6:10, “nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”