

Proverbs 6 -July 22, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

This passage has six subjects, the last being a continuation of the warnings against adultery that parallel greatly with the last chapter. Verses 1-5 are about dealing with relational and business problems quickly. Verses 6-11 are about work ethic. Verses 12-15 are about evil schemers. Verses 16-19 review what God hates. Verses 20-23 illustrate the benefits of God's word. Verses 24-35 are warnings against adultery. So, one third of the chapter is contained in the latter subject.

Commentary:

I. 1-5: Be diligent to fix problems with people quickly. Don't ignore them. While not wanting to be overly confrontational is good, don't let the pendulum swing too far the other way and not deal with things. Instead, be proactive and get in front of issues.

Commands: v3a (x2) "do this" and "deliver yourself"; v3c (x2) "humble yourself" and "badger your neighbor"; v4 "don't sleep on it"; v5 "deliver yourself"

II. 6-11: Don't be lazy. Work hard.

Illustration of the ant.

Don't love sleep. Be balanced in this, like many other things, not too much or too little.

Being poor will be the result of a lack of effort.

III. 12-15: Evil chess players will have their evil returned to them and they will come to ruin. In the end, maliciousness pays negative dividends.

IV. 16-17: Seven things God hates. This is one of the passages we rotate through and read during our time of confession at church.

1. Haughty eyes
2. Lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked thoughts
5. Feet that are quickly run to evil
6. A false witness who breathes out lies
7. One who spreads strife among brothers

It may be helpful to think about the opposite of these:

1. Being humble (James “humble yourselves in the sight of God and He will lift you up.”)
2. Truth telling
3. Protecting the innocent
4. A heart that seeks after God and good
5. People eager to do good
6. Being a man of integrity and reliability
7. Being a peacekeeper cf. with Jesus’ saying about peacekeepers in Matt 5

V. Benefit of God’s word:

20-23: Reminder to listen and keep the commandments

V21 reminiscent of Dt 6

V22 The commandments will: lead, guide, and speak to you.

V23: The commandments and the law are a lamp and light and correction and discipline are the way of life.

VI. The stupidity of adultery:

24-35 More warnings about adultery:

V24 the commandments will keep you from the adulteress

V25 the command to not desire her or be captivated by her. Notice that this is a command. Direct your heart. Don't let it be pulled away. Don't pay attention to her apparent beauty. Focus on something else.

V26 adultery and the adulteress reduces your manhood. It does not increase it. You are just one of many transactions. You are not special. You are being used.

V27-31 there is always a price to pay for adultery. It never doesn't cost you physically.

V32 Not only is it unwise but it destroys your soul. You lose something that you cannot get back. It is an identity crushing act that violates God's plan.

V34-35 more consequences from the man whose wife you slept with. He will be enraged with unquenchable anger and malice.

I happen to know of a story that is almost exactly what is depicted in this passage where a guy slept with the wife of his best friend. The offended man carried that rage until his death (as far as I know) and put the other man in the hospital more than once.

Practical considerations:

-be careful what you give your heart to.

-stay away from places and people that influence you to make bad decisions.

-invest in your marriage. Go on dates and have adventures together. Cultivate your relationship with her and romance her.

-Pray for the things that you want: passionate affection and deep connection. Trust and continual mutuality.

Resources: Joe Rigney: More than a Battle; Covenant Eyes

Closing Prayer:

Father, make us men of rightly ordered affections. Make us love what is good and hate evil. Help us to love our wives and children and build families for the kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.