

Parable of the Crafty Harlot

1. (v5) The immoral seductress (7:5) who flatters (hiphil, causes to divide, receives a portion, gets what she wants) with her words [Psa 5:9, Pr 2:16, 5:3, 7:5, 28:23]; (contrast 8:1-8). **Application** – beware of those who speak divisively (sandwich 1 Cor 1:4-9, 10-17, 18-31), who push an agenda (2 Timothy 3), who say what we want to hear (2 Tim 4:2-4).
2. (v6) Lurks in residential neighborhoods near homes; (contrast 8:1-3) but also v12, 9:14 (unpredictable). **Application** – Be watchful and persevere (Matt 7:15-23, 24:10-13); strive to enter by the narrow gate without diversion or substitution (Luke 13:23-30).
3. (v7) Lies in wait for the unwary (simple, young, empty-hearted – 6:32, 9:4, 16); contrast 8:4-5. **Application** – (same as #2; Genesis 4:7; Rom 7:14-25).
4. (v8) Going down her path with her is a choice (contrast 8:5, 10). **Application** – Set our minds on spiritual truth (Rom , 8:5-8, 12-14, 17-18).
5. (v9) Opportunistic in the darkness [2:13, John 3:19, 8:12; Jer 9], (contrast light - 8:23-34, esp. 30, 34). **Application** – Walk in the light, deal with sin (Eph 5:8-18; 1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6, *9-11, 15-17)
6. (v10) Clothing of a harlot, a heart “watching out for itself” – seduction using appearances for personal gain. **Application** – Don’t take pride in appearances or be fooled by those who do (2 Cor 5:12, 10:3-7, 10-12, 17-18).
7. (v11) Loud and rebellious, won’t stay home (Prov 9:13, 1 Tim 5:13-14, Titus 2:4-5). **Application** – Walk in love and purity (Eph 5:1-7, #5 above).
8. (v12) Unpredictable location, setting an ambush (Joshua 8). **Application** – emphasis on #2-#3! (1 Peter 5:8, Ezek 22:25, Zeph 3:1-5; Judges 16)
9. (v13) Brazen, strong face (prevailing, conquering, Judges 6:2), seize with impudent kiss (Gen 19:16 drag Lot out of Sodom); deceitful kiss (Gen 27:26-27, Luke 22:48). **Application** – human force is the wrong power (Matt 11:12, 24:24); human affection is the wrong standard – *Prov 27:6, Luke 6:26 (Standard is acknowledging Christ and the Word - 1 John 4:1-6).
10. (v14) Legitimizes herself with righteous claims (Prov 15:8, 17:1, 21:27; 2 Sam 15:6-9, John 18:28). **Application** – Beware hypocrisy (Matt 23:2-33, Luke 12:1-3)
11. (v15) Flatters victim as personally desirable (Gen 39:7, Potiphar’s wife). **James 4:6**
12. (v16-17) Colors, scents (Exodus 26:1ff, 30:23ff) – sensual appeal, distract/deceive (**1 Tim 4:1-7**)
13. OT - adultery and fornication used as figure for spiritual unfaithfulness – Lev 20:5 – prostituting selves with Molech; 2 Chron 21:11, Jehoram high places, people prostitute themselves; Jeremiah 3:1-22.
14. NT – Rev 2:20, Jezebel (scarlet harlot, 17:1-6); ****Contrast**** Rev 14:1-5: the 144,000 (God determines 12,000 in each tribe, 7:3-4); standing on Mt. Zion (Heb 12:22, Rev 3:12, heavenly Jerusalem) with name of Lamb and Father written on forehead (you can’t do this yourself, Ezek 9:4, Rev 3:12, 7:3, 9:4) – song (Moses, Deut 32); who have not “defiled themselves with women,” virgin = purity (Matt 5:8 - heart, 18:1-4 - child, James 3:17 - wisdom); “follow the Lamb wheresoever” = implicit obedience (Luke 14:27 - cross, John 12:24-26 life/death, Matt 20:22 - cup); “purchased, firstfruits” – separation (Deut 7:6, Titus 2:14, 1 Peter 2:9); “in their mouth no lie” – truthfulness (Psalm 14, some mss add Heb 3:13-18 after v3, q.v.); “blameless before the throne of God” (see Englishman’s on *amomoi*). [abyss – beast of 17:8 comes from it - Luke 8:31 (swine demons), Rev 9:1-2, 11 scorpions, Abaddon; beast from it kills the two witnesses 11:7; Satan bound there 20:1, 3]