

Proverbs 23-01-18a

Good evening. This is Wednesday night Bible class at Grace and Truth Bible Church. This is the 18th of January 2023 and we're continuing our study in Proverbs.

We're looking collectively at Chapter 7 chapter 8 and chapter 9. I am calling this the parable of the crafty harlot By referring it to it as a parable. I think it's helpful because it Reminds us that there is application beyond the immediate figure of a young man being waylaid by a seductress there are principles of Thinking of guarding our hearts of watching our path that are applicable for every single one of us regardless of our age our gender our stage of life and So we treat this as it is intended which is a parable that reflects deeper truths Let's ask God's blessing on our fellowship and study. We'll get started father, we are so grateful that the Lord Jesus Christ having left and Now being seated at your right hand we have not been left as orphans the Holy Spirit has been granted to us the fullness of revelation in your word is our Privilege and our possession and Through the Spirit and through the word we are granted Access to your power and your grace to live our lives supernaturally enabled and empowered beyond what We could ask or think we pray that as we look at this portion of your word together this evening that your Holy Spirit will Minister it to our hearts to renew our minds to thoroughly equip us for every good work.

We ask it in Jesus name Amen as We look at Proverbs we're going to Begin as we did last week in Proverbs chapter 7 The exhortation my son keep my words treasure my commands within you keep my commands and live You can look at this as my child This is equally applicable to ladies women girls as it is to men youths Keep my commands and live keep my law as the apple of your eye as the Focus of your attention is the meaning of the figure the focus of your attention It should be the axis around which our lives rotate It should be our top priority Bind them on your fingers write them on the tablet of your heart. I was tempted to do a study it's very fascinating to see how many places in Scripture a tablet in the heart is Referenced but I didn't find a particular Applicational value there. It's just interesting.

So if you get a chance you can follow this through God promises that in the Millennial Kingdom. He is going to write his law on the fleshy tables of the heart this figure recurs in Paul and The idea here the tablet of the heart. Why would people? make records on Hard surfaces, why would they do this? To remember it to be able to come back and revisit it.

This is why Even in the age of phones and and such we still have paper calendars. We still have notepads. We still have grocery lists We write things down so that if we get distracted if we're thinking about other things we can return and Have a record of those important Prioritized goals and objectives.

So if we write it on the tablet of our heart it is Enshrined there. I have letters that were written almost 200 years ago I've got some records that came from France Recording the birth of my great great great grandmother Someone wrote it down on a flimsy piece of paper with a pen, you know that had a nib in France Just decade after decade after decade ago, it still exists. It's not on the web anywhere It's not on roots web or genealogy.com or my family or any of the rest of these I have it on a piece of paper because somebody wrote it down and That writing has been preserved as long as you've got a heart these things ought to be there.

That's the idea on the Tablet of your heart say to wisdom you are my sister this is a precursor to what is to come because the immoral woman the crafty harlot the seductress wants to have an illicit and immoral relationship Wisdom isn't seducing wisdom wants to be a helpful companion Those of us who have sisters know what a treasure it is to have a sister with whom you have Fellowship with whom you can commune about spiritual truth And your spiritual gifts just like with other believers in in our Close circle in our church fellowship. We are called brothers and sisters for this reason and it is no accident that Wisdom is To be viewed as a sister. This is not seduction.

This is not illicit. It is not something to be viewed in a tacky manner this is Wholesome it partakes of family it partakes of long-term lifelong if you will relationship Marriages come and go your brothers and sisters you have with you always And in families of believers death does not separate you for long So these are precious valuable Blood based Relationships there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother That is quite a friend and I think all of us have friends like that and we're grateful for it But brothers and sisters, this is a close legitimate foundational God-given bond and this is how we should look at God's wisdom call her your sister and Call understanding your nearest kin your closest relation That they may keep you this is Understanding and wisdom they are not the same thing notice that they may keep you these are two close family members Keep you from the immoral woman and this is where our parable begins the immoral woman the seductress Who flatters with her words? I? Have 12 points tonight My intention is to cover six of them in the first session and six of them in the second session This will get us down to verse 18 So we're going to be looking tonight at Verses 6 through 18 This is the parable of the crafty harlot Now, why do I have these points? These are Observations we are going to extract from this parable and find Application for ourselves in many different areas of life. This isn't simple Morality versus immorality in the physical relationship realm.

This is Spiritual truth. How can I avoid being? spiritually seduced How can I have a healthy? productive foundational relationship with God's wisdom God's Word God's truth Well, we begin with wisdom and understanding Being those who are closest to us. We love them.

They love us we prioritize them they preserve us Preserve us from the seductress who flatters with her words. So this is our first point verse 5 This is an immoral seductress and she flatters She flatters with her words, what does it mean to flatter? Well this word and I'm not going to do too much Hebrew when I do it it's because it's important this word is important this is Kalak CH. So it's a like Chava Nagila Chalak C-h-a-l-a-q and This is a word that means to Divide in its fundamental Meaning it means to divide or separate in the lexicon.

They say well it is to be smooth or slippery but that is a reference to this fundamental idea of Separating something if you're walking on Slippery ground mud or ice and your foot goes out from under you It's slippery and your foot is divided from the place that you wanted it to be It has moved away. It has separated it is divided from lack of traction So the root meaning is to divide this is a hypheal Hypheal in Hebrew is the causative stem so with her words she is Causing you to slip she is dividing your foot from the path. She is diverting dividing Separating the unwary from where they ought to be standing where they should stand Walking as they should walk doing with what they should do.

So these these words she is using words To Get you somewhere. You shouldn't be Divide and separate you it's the oldest literally. It is the oldest trick in the book You know what the oldest trick in the book is, right? Eve got talked into eating the fruit This is that idea she diverts divides separates with her words So principle number one in the hypheal the causative stem cause to divide this is also used for when you're dividing an inheritance but in the hypheal This is to receive and The idea is she's going to get what she wants She's going to divide you from where you should be and she's going to get what she wants.

It's her Benefit her Objectives that are in view when she's flattering it isn't because she's trying to help you she's working for her own gain and this idea of Dividing or allotting when it's in the cowl when it's in the active stem is used for dividing the spoil dividing an inheritance dividing the land and Productively distributing but when it's coming in the direction of the actor of the subject this is I'm getting what I want. I'm gonna I'm gonna divide what you have I'm gonna divide you away from where you ought to be and I'm going to get it So all of the Hebrew is such a rich language. This is her objective As an introduction to this fundamental Division between righteousness and wickedness between legitimacy and that which is Illegitimate that which is godly and that which is self-seeking and self-serving turn with me to Psalm 5 Psalm 5 this is as dr.

Chris will like to say this is our background text This is the backdrop Behind which you can easily observe what is going on with this Seductive crafty harlot psalm 5 This is dedicated to the chief musician with pipes or flutes It is a psalm of David as most of the first 50 are the first 50 psalms. This is the book of David This is a prayer give ear to my words O Lord consider my meditation Give heed to the voice of my cry my king and my God For to you, I will pray My voice you shall hear in the morning O Lord in the morning I

will direct it to you and I will look up for you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness Nor shall evil dwell with you The boastful shall not stand in your sight you hate all workers of iniquity You shall destroy those who speak falsehood the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man Notice boastfulness and Speaking of falsehood speaking deceitfully This is part of what the crafty harlot is going to employ by way of strategy as For me verse 7. I will come into your house in the multitude of your mercy in fear of you I will worship toward your holy temple Lead me O Lord in your righteousness because of my enemies Make your way straight before my face What a great legitimate prayer to pray Lead me in your righteousness Make your way straight before my face For there is no faithfulness in their mouth their inward part is Destruction their throat is an open tomb. They flatter.

This is our word they divide they cause to slip they Work for their own interest With their tongue Pronounce them guilty. Oh God Let them fall by their own Councils cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions for they have rebelled against you Let all those rejoice who put their trust in you let them ever shout for joy because you defend them Let those also who love your name be joyful in you for you Lord will bless the righteous with favor. You will surround him as with a shield in these days as you look at what's going on with government with society with current events with evil in high places with overt brash impudent Implementation of Evil and self-centeredness.

This is a wonderful prayer for us to start the day with I'm gonna read it again quickly give ear to my words. Oh Lord consider my meditation Give heed to the voice of my cry my King and my God For to you, I will pray my voice you shall hear in the morning. Oh Lord in the morning I will direct it to you and I will look up That's the way to start the day look up recognize the nature of the opposition Claim God's grace ask for his guidance and Rest in his promise.

That's what this psalm is about All right back to Proverbs chapter 7 Our first point in verse 5 the immoral seductress Flatters divides causes to slip for her own benefit with her words You see that in Psalm 59 which we just saw in its context We also saw this back in Proverbs chapter 2 verse 16 My son did not walk in the way with these Lurkers and sinners Keep your foot from their path their feet runs to evil their feet run to evil and they make haste to shed blood Their feet run to evil. They make haste to shed blood This is their Purpose it is self-seeking self-serving Proverbs chapter 5 and verse 3 The lips of an immoral woman drip honey her mouth is smoother than oil this seduction is Going to be accomplished against us Talking this is a lot of talk. It is accomplished with words You can move forward to Proverbs 28:23 See the same thing very close to the end of the collection He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward than he who flatters This is our word Halak he who divides causes to slip Uses smooth words to get what he wants.

This is manipulation with words So What is our first point from this parable be wary of

those who Use words What words should influence us? All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable We do not live by bread alone But by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God the Lord Jesus is the word that became flesh and dwelt among us Scripture is our guide scripture is inspired pithy quotes snappy aphorisms One-liners arguments from people Sometimes they contain truth. Sometimes they don't we measure them against the standard of God's Word They are not a substitute for God's Word They are only valuable to the extent that they reflect God's Word and We find people starting with scripture and then drifting further and further afield listening to flattering words Words that move your foot off the path That divert your eyes away from what David prayed Lord put your straight path before my face God does this we have the gift of the Holy Spirit and the presence of God's Word. This is what literally keeps us straight Keeps us upright keeps us on the path You cannot trust Aphorisms sayings and in this day and age Narratives people want to tell a story this flattering words seduction using words Has ever been Satan's strategy that is number one now in Verse six, this is going to be our second point.

We get one point per verse for most of this Per verse guess they don't want to say that too fast. Do we one point per verse? Verse six for at the window of my house. I looked through my lattice.

Why is this here? Because the crafty harlot the immoral seductress is To be found in residential neighborhoods Among other places. This isn't the only place but the first Place that this Crafty harlot is observed is in a residence. The speaker is in his own house He looks out his window looks through the lattice and sees this woman Sees this victim Walking down the street and sees this entire scene unfold, but it begins in a residential neighborhood You're not safe just because you're not in the public square.

You're not safe. Just because you're not in the open areas of the marketplace You see this and we will see it Not far in the future when we get to some parallels in first Timothy Where people slip into homes and divert and delude but you're not safe in Your yard you're not safe at home. The attack is insidious it goes everywhere There is no safe space from these attacks Now we're going to contrast this with Lady wisdom This immoral seductress Who flatters with her words who is is out for her own? Objectives is in contrast look at Proverbs chapter 8 wisdom cries out Understanding lifts up her voice She's not lurking and waiting to grab a guy and kiss him as we're going to see She's she's going to start talking after she's already waylaid him in the dark wisdom cries out By taking her stand on the top of the high hill in 8 to Beside the way where the paths meet she's in public.

She's in the open. She's in the daylight She cries out verse 3 by the gates at the entry of the city at the entrance of the doors Remember at the entrance of the city and in the gates this was the place of justice where judges rendered verdicts where Offended parties and those who were charged with crimes met and had their cases adjudicated

wisdom cries out there What does she say to you oh men I call my voice is to the sons of men She is also calling to the Benin to the to the youths to the sons and Oh you simple ones in 8-5 she is calling out to the simple just as the crafty harlot is Waylaying the simple verse 7 of our chapter 7 7 I saw among the simple I perceived among the youths Well wisdom is calling out to that same simpleton that same naive youth What does this tell us? There is a choice The simple have a choice which woman are you going to follow which woman are you going to listen to? Which woman will you respond the crafty harlot or? lady wisdom so in 7 7 the simple the youth a man devoid of understanding a young man devoid of understanding we're going to see what that is in a minute is Taking the path to the house of the crafty harlot in Chapter 8 Wisdom is crying out in the public square at the crossroads at the gates At the entrance of the city at the entrance of the doors Verse 5. Oh you simple ones very same words you naive ones you inexperienced ones you vulnerable ones You fools Understand prudence you fools be of an understanding heart So what does this tell us? comparing Chapter 7 and chapter 8 the approach of these two women it is a choice We choose we decide which way we're going to go So that's the contrast for our point 1 and Our point 2 you'll notice that she is lurking as we look at verse 6 in the residential neighborhood near homes but Look down at verse 12 At times she is outside at times. She's in the open square She'll go out in public from time to time Look at chapter 9 verse 14 a Foolish woman is clamorous.

She is simple and knows nothing She sits at the door of her house on a seat by the highest places in the city so she can be found as an alternate to Wisdom crying out in some of the very same places But she likes to start at home. She likes to start in the dark She likes to start by waylaying and plying her charms and her seductive appeal near home And so what is the application for us? number one Remembering that there is a choice We need to be alert We need to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation as we've been seeing in our Matthew study on Sundays We need to be alert and watchful not Wander around in the dark as this simple young man is doing to be Waylaid to be flattered away to be divided away and slip away Pay attention to the appeal in the daylight in the open ready to defend ready to debate ready to To argue in favor of God's wisdom not appealing to priory and desires and The things we're going to see in the upcoming verses. So number one it is a choice number two Watch out When you think you're safe, you're in your own neighborhood.

You think you live in a good neighborhood and it's safe Be watchful This is where the crafty harlot likes to start She'll end up in public. She'll end up at the gate and other places But the first place we see her is on a dark street near the house You see her out the window number three verse seven I I Saw among the simple I perceived among the youths a young man devoid of understanding The word simple here is Literally to be empty of heart Empty hearted There is a vacuum there waiting to be filled You find this same term in the Psalms and in the Proverbs and there is an option the simple can choose to be distracted and carried away by this crafty harlot or in Psalm 19 verse 7 the

alternative the law of the Lord is perfect Converting the soul the testimony of the Lord is sure Making wise the simple Very same word making wise the simple This Hebrew word if you want to write it down is petty P E T I or I Y P E T I In Hebrew, it's it's I Y petty Psalm 116 verse 6 in other words being being simple being naive being inexperienced is not necessarily a Bad thing if you take steps Psalm 116 verse 6 the Lord preserves the simple I was brought low and he saved me The Lord will preserve the simple from his simplicity If the simple turns to the Lord God will grant his Perfect law which will convert the soul and you won't be simple for long The testimony of the Lord in Psalm 19 7 is sure making wise the simple 116 6 the Lord preserves the simple Psalm 119 130 119 130 the entrance of your words gives light it gives understanding to the simple Remember at the beginning of this chapter Make wisdom Your sister and understanding your nearest kin Proverbs 1 4 these Proverbs themselves are given to give prudence to the simple 1 4 122 of Proverbs how long you simple ones will you love simplicity? scorners delight in their scorning and fools hate knowledge But those who are simple and recognize that they are such will turn to God turn to the law turn to wisdom seek Understanding and God will grant it Proverbs 132, what if they don't do that? What if they don't listen to the call of? lady wisdom the turning away of the simple will slay them and The complacency of fools will destroy them being simple and Recognizing it this is acknowledging need This is humility Humility recognizes. I have a need I have a shortfall.

I have a lack There is an emptiness in my heart that needs to be filled. I am going to turn to God For that need to be answered. I will ask I will seek I will knock and there are abundant promises but if we have simplicity if we have an empty heart and We turn away 132 of Proverbs That's death Complacency of fools will destroy them turning away the simple will slay them So the call of lady wisdom in 8 5 Understand prudence you fools be of an understanding heart.

It is a choice. It's not predetermined It is not predestined That condition may exist but by God's grace and by choosing To listen choosing to turn That condition can be remedied Well, that is our first three points Very quickly in verse 8 if you notice passing along the street near her corner. He took the path to her to her house This reinforces it is a choice.

He did not have to take that path. She doesn't drag him down to her house He turns down the path Made a bad choice You look at chapter 8 verse 5. Oh you simple ones understand prudence you fools be of an understanding heart You don't have to turn down that path Look at 8 10 receive my instruction and not silver receive knowledge Even more than choice gold it's a choice Well, that's our first four points we'll pause here and take our break when we come back we'll see how far we can get on the remaining eight