

Proverbs 23-02-15b

Let's uh, let's resume our study now We're looking at Proverbs 7 through 9 and this is kind of our final run-through here before we move further into the book and so we've seen how important it is to understand this figure of the harlot as the seductive attempts in the world whether it is the externalities or our own flesh or Satan in a more directed and demonic effort to deflect us through these techniques and these tactics and these metaphorical figures of attractive dress nice smells The Appeal to self gratification and to short-sightedness. Let's do this fun stuff tonight. My husband is away She doesn't say by the way when he gets back and he finds out what you've done.

You're gonna have an arrow in your liver That's not a part of her message This is this is what is pointed out by the Word of God rather than by the seductress but what I want to do now is just Review because as I said Proverbs 1 through 9 is really the introductory Opus for the entire collection and you will remember in Chapter 1 that there was also an appeal and an attempt to waylay the my son individual into a bad path and that was Beginning in verse 10 of chapter 1 my son if sinners entice you do not consent So we begin with that warning Sinners are going to try to entice you do not consent and then we conclude this 9 chapter beginning with if the crafty harlot tries to entice you Don't be fooled. Don't consent and this is going to be our comparison contrast because There's a reason why this warning is couched in two different terms Let's just read because this is pretty short. We're only going to look at These Verses in chapter 1 my son if sinners entice you do not consent if they say come with us Let us lie in wait to shed blood.

Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause Let us swallow them alive like she'll and whole like those who go down to the pit We shall find all kinds of precious possessions We shall fill our houses with spoil cast in your lot among us. Let us all have one purse My son do not walk in the way with them Keep your foot from their path for their feet run to evil and they make haste to shed blood Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird, but they lie in wait for blood. They lurk secretly for lives So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain it takes away the life of its owners we've been through the harlot enough that I don't need to reread that passage where she is lying in wait looking for the gullible naive the empty-hearted and she is trying to Get him to go down the road with her for this night of sensuous pleasure So What is the first thing let me ask you this question When you think about this section of chapter 1 and then you think about the crafty harlot.

What's the first thing you notice that is? different between the two To put it another way How many harlots are there? This is sinners Plural this is a group, right? So the first thing is In chapter 1 the sinners this is an appeal to join our group Enter into our community Cast your lot in with us. We will be Partners, we will be brothers. We will be you'll be accepted and one of our group where the harlot is Enticing him individually and to Stay with him individually and it's just the two of them.

She's not inviting him to a seance or to a An orgy where there's a whole bunch of people doing illicit things. That's a one-on-one thing So what conclusion do we draw looking at this? There are two different kinds of approach one of which in chapter 1 is The community approach community pressure be a part of our community do what we do And you'll share in the rewards that we perceive from our agenda The individual harlot says come with me and share in the rewards that you and I Individually can create for each other in terms of sensual gratification so one is a group ethos a community ethos the other is Divide remember even the word that means to seduce The smooth and flattering words flattery means to divide just to split off This is the the young caribou at the back of the herd that's going to get picked off Because it's separated from the group so in one case there is an appeal to join a group and group Pressure and group promises are going to be the benefit in the other it is splitting you off from your family from your companions from the daylight from Lady Wisdom and Engage in dubious behavior and and illicit and evil behavior behind closed doors in the dark Two different kinds of seduction how does this in terms of figure and in terms of metaphor? translate to appeals made to us today I Will offer you a couple of quick examples The political world in terms of chapter 1 and the group ethos Well, we are fill in the blank. You know we are Conservatives we are liberals.

We are Republicans. We are Democrats Together we can accomplish things Come with us, and we'll take back America for God, or we will ensure that oppressed people get their rights and and get their freedoms and We'll build back our borders and keep these types out that are contributing to Fentanyl and so on will we need the border we need the wall we need the security we need to to you know entrench Now on the other side you have a group that says you know We've aborted so many babies our populations dropping So let's let some fresh people in and we'll replenish the workforce and taxes will be paid and communities will grow and I'm not Commenting on the rightness or wrongness per se of these I'm saying that the appeal is Group appeal we're a party. We're a wing.

We're a viewpoint and Nobody should embrace these things Unthinkingly there were a lot of unthinking people that got carried away with a heady initiative on January the 6th in the Capitol and Many wrong things were done in the name of right a lot of people were waving around crosses and pictures of Jesus wearing a MAGA hat and You know God wants mr.. Trump to be president again and and a lot of Amalgamated and therefore corrupted truth and outright error and misguided enthusiasm Zeal but not according to knowledge all kinds of bad things happened Regardless of the truth of how the election turned out and why it turned out that way There are right and wrong ways to react and respond but if sinners entice thee consent thou not and And We've got to be careful about any group appeal that is made in the interest of we will have all things in common our Rising tide will float all boats on either side of the spectrum or in any part of the middle They they have this thing called the religious, right? They've got the you know

the woke Religion people they've got people throwing rocks at other people and some people are Hailed and heralded as saints and others are vilified and pulled down as as horrific compromisers and But this is done in our day as never before given the advent of social media As a group thing cancel culture is accomplished by groups Foisting someone to the forefront is done by groups. There are packs. There are Corporations there are Entities with an agenda.

There's big pharma. There's big tech. There's big this and big that and as we have seen Judging the content is one thing Judging the rightness or wrongness of a premise of an observation of a concern Of a moral judgment a moral value.

That's one thing but you can take something that is Inherently not evil not illegitimate may even be true may even be right But if you shove it out of its place if you put it somewhere It does not belong it turns into an evil and it's done by a group Other times the group is outright embracing evil as in chapter 1 There is no good context for Lying in wait for blood lurking secretly for the innocent without a cause verse 11 this is Sharpshooting for its own sake. How does that work out in the modern day? I disagree with Politician X so I'm gonna find some dirt. I'm gonna find an implicated picture or a troubled relative and We'll pull him down by any means possible if I can't meet him on the ground of ideas Will character assassinate him will humiliate him will shame him I disagree with the decision that the Supreme Court judge made So I'm gonna stand outside his house and shout at his family and bullhorns night after night after night after night.

I Will lie in wait and lurk secretly for the innocent without a cause Without a legitimate cause there's always a cause you don't just lie in wait Because it's it's fun to lurk you have an objective you want to take something you want gratification in terms of Expressing power. This is what psychologists will tell you about rape many times It's more about power than it is about lust it's about asserting control over a helpless victim and that is the thrill is taking charge of a thing and being in complete control people that are Got bad things going on upstairs It's about power and I want to lie in wait. I want to pounce.

I want to control I want to perpetrate my idea on them against their will But notice all of these are plural. Let us so this is not your lone serial rapist. This is not your Gun waving crazy.

This is this is group perpetration and this is where you get your cults this is where you get your your guys that go out in the middle of South Dakota and live in a compound and teach each other how to shoot guns and lay snares and Foment, you know overthrow of the government and whatnot This is what happened with racism in the South and elsewhere in the world where there are abuses perpetrated due to the ability to have that power and to Penalize anybody that objects or points out the wrongness of it You're

pointing out my wrong. I will make you pay But it's done in groups and part of the motivation is the thrill of perpetrating power and their safety in numbers our gang can go commit these crimes and You notice a lot of the break-ins into stores now where they have relaxed Law enforcement and they have relaxed penalties when someone is caught and so now you can see film after film after film security camera one after another of groups going in and just stealing Stores blind and any one individual that takes less than \$900 worth of stuff in California Can't even be arrested. Just keep your total under 900 bucks and you don't go to jail It's it's craziness, but they do it in groups You don't see one individual going in there because I'm vulnerable but safety in numbers So that is chapter one.

How does it work in chapter 7? She lies in wait These guys lie in wait, so they are perpetrators They are looking for victims and they are taking advantage of victims the harlot is Turning the young man into a victim So chapter 1 come with us and become a fellow perpetrator in chapter 7 Watch out that you do not become a victim. She is trying to turn you into a victim. So chapter 1 Don't be a perpetrator with groups That perpetrate evil don't become like them don't participate in their crimes Don't let yourself be lured into a community don't be a part of a community where you are enticed into a Community policy or community activity that is wrong in chapter 7 Watch out that you are not made a victim that you are not victimized by someone appealing to your personal desires and As Vulnerability to gratification and allure and deception Someone taking advantage of your inexperience taking advantage of your vulnerability taking advantage of your naivete your empty heart because It's kind of like having an empty forehead If you haven't got the name of the father's stamp there somebody can come along and put the mark of the beast and you don't Know any better because you haven't read Revelation Right so Don't be a perpetrator chapter 1. Don't be a victim chapter 7 and part of chapter 9 perpetrator or victim the world can Loop us in and make us a part of evil on either the action side or the Reception side and we've got to be careful about both What is the motivation these perpetrators in chapter 1 want to Lie and wait for the innocent for no reason the innocent that they don't have a grudge They're not trying to right a wrong.

They're not getting vengeance It's just happenstance any target of opportunity. They don't care whom and you see this Happening in the modern day Somebody is in the wrong place at the wrong time through no fault of their own They're just going to the parking lot after work, and they're just a target of opportunity Because someone is lying in wait for anyone Don't be the person like why would someone do that? Why would someone they don't have a grudge against the victim? They want to do something and many times it is more than one maybe it's two or three or more that want to Have their way with a young lady or want to steal from whoever comes along But they know The lengths to which they are willing to go before they start let let us lie in wait for blood Let us lie in wait, we will go all the way up to taking life We don't care without a cause this is

an Alliance of intense self gratification They Want treasure and spoil you look at verse 13. We shall find all kinds of precious possessions.

We will fill our houses with spoil Our houses are empty so we're going to take other people's stuff and fill our houses we will take What is the rightful possession of others unto ourself this can be talking space? We will silence others so that only our voice is heard we will Turn off The social media accounts will get them turned off will lie and wait for anyone who says something We don't like and we'll get them turned off We'll wield this power and the space where they were talking we will now talk we will take their space We will take their voice and substitute our own will fill our house with their spoil Advertisers will subsidize our online videos instead of theirs and we will get remuneration because we're talking louder We are loud and proud and we will be the ones who gain attention and notoriety and all of these Assets both tangible and intangible will come to us that used to be others They are in verse 19 The ways of everyone who is greedy for gain These people ally and group together birds of a feather and what? Glues them together is greed and the desire for gain That's they're they're of the same mindset. That's what they're after if that kind of sinner Entices you and says hey we can collaborate and at the expense of others There's nothing wrong with a co-op, you know farmers get together Produce growers get together and form a co-op people that want to educate their kids get together and form a co-op There's nothing wrong with gathering together in a worthy cause but if the basic reason you are co-op or aiding is because you want to Overcome someone else and take what is rightfully theirs. That is the appeal but you got to think in Intangible in spiritual terms in social terms and in today's world social media terms People who want to come in and suck all the air out of the room and only their voice is heard and they shout down anyone with whom they disagree and they are Thrilled with the power to do that and it's just gratifying in and of itself That's chapter 1 in chapter 7 this is This woman is the opposite.

She doesn't need to fill her house. Her house is already full. She's got perfume She's got expensive draperies and tapestries and bedspreads Why? Because she's got a husband Her husband is paying for everything her husband has given her.

She's not trying to waylay this guy because she wants to rob him What is her objective? guys in chapter 1 We lack and we want and we're gonna get it in an illicit manner by grouping together. You come join us We'll be stronger With one more added to the number here. That's not her motive.

She's got everything Why is she waylaying this guy? This is Self-indulgence this is Lack of appreciation. She doesn't appreciate what she has She doesn't appreciate her husband as soon as he's out of town. She's ready to go Do something illicit.

She has an expensive house with luxurious appointments No lack of money but for her own amusement at This victim's expense she wants to have a night of hilarity So there is

the idea of self-gratification in both worlds but She promises the victim. She knows this guy is gonna be in big trouble. She knows she's not gonna keep him around There's no future in it His life is in danger if the husband comes back and catches him finds out about it Somebody sees him coming in and out in the dark at night and a word is spoken This guy's gonna end up with an arrow in the liver.

She doesn't care Because she's getting what she wants out of the bargain individually and she's making her Night of fun at his expense because he is gullible enough to believe what she says This how does this translate into the modern day Can people make us into a victim for their own Pleasure for their own gratification. Can they take advantage of us and they don't really care What happens to us? They're more interested in in how things turn out for them and The cats away the mice will play You have individuals in workplace scenarios who will Let someone else do a bunch of work Take it put their name on it submit it for their own advancement They don't care what happens to the person that did all the hard work. They want the notoriety.

They want the reputation They want the promotion. They want the position in the company. I've seen this happen.

I'm sure some of y'all have seen this happen Others work is appropriated to one's own professional benefit This can happen in any number of one-on-one Relationships where someone takes advantage of someone else for their gain without consideration of the other person's loss and It isn't here a warning. Don't be the harlot. Is it? This is not a warning don't be that don't lurk at corners and waylay innocent men That's not the warning in chapter 9 that warning is in chapter 1. Don't be a victim of these groups Don't join these groups and become a perpetrator But chapter 7 through 9 here is not a warning.

Don't let yourself turn into a crafty harlot Don't be taken advantage of don't be seduced and subverted and suborned by The crafty harlot Don't let yourself be victimized Don't let someone appeal to your better nature you think about I've told stories in the past and even recently about those who want to Take advantage of our general good nature and generosity. Oh, I'm having a hard time here Could you buy me a tank of gas could you Give me a \$20 bill out the window, okay, you know Homeless and hungry Cardboard sign there are charities who want to prey on us individually and will send us letters and Make phone calls and say would you support the cause would you send a blind and deaf kid to the rodeo? And I'm thinking what's a blind and deaf kid gonna know about what's happening in the arena. They can't see it.

They can't hear it I actually had that call when we lived in Rockwall We've got blind and deaf kids and we want it want you to To buy them some tickets so they can go to the rodeo and I thought Are they gonna have? And Bancroft come and you know press signs into their hands so that they know that the cowboy got bucked off the bull or I You know

light bulbs from the blind the blind are making light bulbs and we want you to I Think how do they know if it's a good light? I mean, I just I don't know it makes me scratch my head but to not be taken advantage of because of our innocence our lack of knowledge that when they call up and say I'm with the law enforcement support and Protection we we want to help the families of fallen law enforcement officers If you get a phone call like that it is Almost always I've never seen a case where it wasn't a scam They don't have families of fallen law enforcement officers if you contact law enforcement, which I did twice And I said, I just got a call from these guys. They said we don't know anything about them. We don't get a nickel We have our own Support structure for the widows and families of fallen officers and those guys aren't it you send money to them You're never going to see it again, but you're gullible.

You're innocent. They're coming to you over the phone It's like the dark street and they're taking advantage of your good nature and making you a victim for their own gratification People set up fake websites and Go fund me pages and you send the money to go fund me and it just disappears because it didn't go This is as old as tabs for Timmy back in the 70s Oh save your pop tops and send them in and Timmy can get a new kidney or whatever it is and The Recycling money and so on went to nefarious people there was no Timmy and there was no kidney now It was all a big scam. So we have to be as harmless as doves but as wise as serpents and We should not be roped into victimizing others and We should not let ourselves be victimized by individuals and Entities that are trying to take advantage of our innocent nature our goodwill It is bad stewardship.

It puts something in the place of time and attention that we should be devoting to God Our alms that we do should be done as unto the Lord with knowledge of forethought with a recognition of stewardship with Understanding who is and who is not our neighbor? and so This idea of ultimately ending up taking the blood and lives of others Turn to Psalm 50 Psalm 50 Remember the first 50 Psalms are the the book of David Psalm 50 is the psalm of Asaph and Begin at verse 16 He talks about first of all these Saints in verse 5 Gather my saints together those have made a covenant with me by sacrifice and he deals with them Then in the middle of the psalm in verse 16 to the wicked God says what right have you to declare my statutes? Or take my covenant in your mouth These are those who claim to be God's people who claim to speak God's truth who claim to represent God on this earth What right have you to declare my statutes or take my covenant in your mouth seeing you hate? instruction and cast my words behind you when you saw a thief you consented with him and Have been a partaker with adulterers Notice you consented with theft and you've become a partaker. You have a portion this word partake is From the same root that halak that we saw that is smoothness and flattery that divides This is dividing a portion. This is the spoil You have become a partaker with adulterers.

You give your mouth to evil and your tongue frames deceit You sit and speak against

your brother. You slander your own mother's son These things you have done and I kept silent You thought I was altogether like you but I will rebuke you and set them in order before your eyes Now consider this you who forget God notice the real crime in this the real center of the wickedness is forgetting God You Take his covenant in your mouth you claim to declare his statutes But in the very process you forget God himself and you assume You bring God down to a human level. This is a big problem in the deconstruction reconstruction Jesus hermeneutic crowd they're dragging God down to human level and claiming it's all about social justice and Bringing the kingdom into society and so on like God is has got the the mundane concerns of You know poverty and oppression that that's all the plan of God is about is solving that You thought I was altogether like you I will rebuke you and I will set these faults these sins in order before your eyes Consider this you who forget God You better consider it you better repent remember there was space for repentance in Revelation in Thyatira even Jezebel I Have given her space to repent She's not doing it those who are listening to her.

I gave them space to repent. They're not doing it Consider this you who forget God lest I tear you in pieces and there be none to deliver Whoever offers praise glorifies me and to him who orders his conduct or right? I will show the deliverance of God These are the actual Sacrifices there's a lot you can say about that turn back to Psalm 17 verse 13 through 15 Psalm 17 13 through 15 Arise O Lord Confront him and cast him down who look at the preceding context These who close up their fat hearts with their mouths they speak proudly in verse 10 They have surrounded us in our steps They have set their eyes crouching down to the earth as a lion is eager to tear his prey and like a young lion Lurking in secret places. These are the lurkers of Proverbs chapter 1 arise Oh Lord confront him cast him down deliver my life from the wicked with your sword with your hand from men Oh Lord from men of the world who have their portion in this life They're looking for spoil.

They're looking for inheritance. They're looking for accomplishment. They're looking for vindication that's the portion and they're looking for it in this life and Whose belly you fill with your hidden treasure? They are satisfied with children and leave the rest of their possession for their babes.

It's all about a legacy It's all about accomplishment and leaving something behind in this world If you if you take this out of its context and you say oh look here's people whose belly God has filled with this hidden treasure no, these are people who have partaken of God's Manna the hidden treasure of his word and yet they're using it for earthly purposes They want to set up a portion in this life and they just want to pass it on to their children As for me, I will see your face in righteousness I shall be satisfied when I awake in your likeness What is he talking about the resurrection? I? Am NOT looking for vindication and a portion in this life. It's not just about having a posterity and legacy People who take God's Word and turn it around and all they want to do is Accomplish something in this life something visible something that they see as permanent David

says I will be satisfied when I awake in your likeness That's the resurrection David knew all about the resurrection It is not enough to have hope only in this life Paul says remember that first Corinthians 15 If there is no resurrection of Christ is not raised. We have all men most miserable and you're yet in your sins The hope of the resurrection we look to the future.

We cannot get entangled. We cannot become perpetrators of evil lying in wait for the the vulnerable Nor can we become victims and be dragged away by our own lusts we have to watch out that the community of Evil doesn't suck us in or that the individual out for their own Advancement and their own gratification Dupes us and takes us in there is a warning at the beginning and there's a warning at the end And it's not just for the young man. It is for all of us We have to be so careful and the real care is there is nothing wrong with Egyptian silk there is nothing wrong with the perfumes and the emoluments and the Pleasures of this life it is when they take the place of God and our covenant obligations our covenant worship our covenant Opportunities to serve and to love and to be obedient and to lay hold of righteousness by faith when that gets shoved aside By the crafty harlot when that gets shoved aside by a community That's got its own agenda to fulfill its own desire for spoil and we get sucked in by the ethos However Alluring and seductive it is we have been deflected.

We're no better than the young man who either Goes the way of sinners or is taken in by the harlot and ends up with an arrow in his liver I don't know about you. I don't want an arrow in my liver Just that sounds bad not real sure what the consequences are but that's what scripture says It's a bad thing well, that's our comparison contrast of chapter 1 and chapter 7 and I hope that it's helpful. I think it's certainly something to chew on I've been working it through in terms of Application in our modern day and I trust you'll be able to as well.

We'll close here in a word of prayer father Thank you for these wonderful and practical truths They're not abstractions. They are not in heaven or down in Shaul. They're near they are pertinent They're meaningful And a means of illuminating our path and in the hands of the Holy Spirit We pray that they will motivate us help us to see clearly how to Walk the narrow road through the straight gate that leads to life and not be suborned and seduced Into the ways of death we ask it in Jesus name.

Amen