

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 37

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.

Topical Series: Wisdom Lived out in Community

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 5:1-23

Sermon Date: June 22nd, 2008

Husbands, love your wives by being faithful.

Do you remember the old saying—"That person is the salt of the earth"? Do you know what it means when someone is called the "salt of the earth"?

The saying is an outgrowth of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-16. In Matthew 5:13, Jesus says "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men." Salt in the ancient world was so valuable that it was often used for trading. But what did Jesus mean when he called his followers the salt of the earth?

In Leviticus 2:13, God tells the Israelites to use salt in all of their offerings and he refers to it as the salt of the covenant and it was to remind the Israelites of God's continuing faithfulness. In Matthew 5:13, Jesus calls upon his followers to be salt— so that we can be a different "flavor" in the world that we live in and also that we can be a preservative to the moral decay of this world.

What does this have to do with being faithful to your wife? Let's look at this weeks verses and see how this all relates to how we live our daily lives within society and our families.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Text: Proverbs 5:1-23 NIV</p> <p>5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight,</p> <p>5:2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.</p> <p>5:3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;</p> <p>5:4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.</p> <p>5:5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.</p> <p>5:6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.</p> <p>5:7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>5:8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,</p> <p>5:9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,</p> <p>5:10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.</p> <p>5:11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.</p> <p>5:12 You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!"</p> <p>5:13 I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.</p> <p>5:14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."</p> <p>5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.</p> <p>5:16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
5:17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.	
5:18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth	
5:19 A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.	
5:20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?	
5:21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.	
5:22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.	
5:23 He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.	
2:16 It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words,	
2:17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
2:18 For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.	
2:19 None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.	
7:1 My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you.	
7:2 Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.	
7:3 Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.	
7:4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman;	
7:5 they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words.	
7:6 At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice.	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>7:7 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment.</p>	
<p>7:8 He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house</p>	
<p>7:9 at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.</p>	
<p>7:10 Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.</p>	
<p>7:11 (She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home;</p>	
<p>7:12 now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)</p>	
<p>7:13 She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said:</p>	
<p>7:14 "I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>7:15 So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you!</p>	
<p>7:16 I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.</p>	
<p>7:17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.</p>	
<p>7:18 Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!</p>	
<p>7:19 My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey.</p>	
<p>7:20 He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon."</p>	
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Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
7:21 With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk	
7:22 All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose	
7:23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.	
7:24 Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.	
7:25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.	
7:26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng.	
7:27 Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
22:14 The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit; he who is under the LORD's wrath will fall into it.	
27:8 Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home	

2. Our theme for this week is “faithfulness” or “being faithful”.
 - a. How do you define faithfulness? Write a definition below. What is there about someone that makes you consider them faithful?

3. This week's verses are filled with warnings to a man to avoid an adulteress such as Proverbs 5:5: “Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.” Why do you think that there is no mention of “forgiveness” (for either party) in any of this week’s verses?

4. How do you reconcile these verses in Proverbs with the story of the woman caught in adultery and forgiven by Jesus in John 8:1-11?

5. Private Question for Personal Reflection: How faithful have you been sexually? This can be a hard question to hear, let alone answer, and you may not be ready to do so. But try to talk to God about this important subject. Listen again to His Word about it. Ask Him to help you and show you how to handle this area better. Maybe seek counsel from a trusted Christian friend or pastor.

6. Notice verses 5:1-2; 6:20-24; and 7:1-5, how does storing up the words and commands within you help you from being unfaithful? Consider also 2 Timothy 3-16.

7. Throughout the Old and New Testament, God is shown to be faithful. How is our being faithful in marriage related to our being faithful to God? Consider Ephesians 5:22-23, Isaiah 54:5-8 and Revelation 21:2.

8. How can you cultivate greater faithfulness in your life? Consider Deuteronomy 28:1-10; 2 Kings 12:13-15; Proverbs 45:25-27, Ecclesiastes 5:1-7; Daniel 6:1-5; Matthew 25:14-21; 1 Timothy 3:12-13; and James 5:16.

9. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 27:8

^{27:8} Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.

Lamentations 3:22—23 says “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins if we come to him and ask his forgiveness.

Are you part of the followers of Jesus that can be called the “salt and light of the earth” as it says in Matthew 5:13-16? Do you want to be part of that steadfast group that makes a difference in this world?

You can by taking a moment right now to invite Jesus into your heart as you personal savior. To believe in Christ as your savior involves more than just agreeing that Jesus’ words are true. It means to trust in Christ alone for your salvation. It also means that you have decided to place your faith in the hands of Jesus, trusting him to be your Lord and his Word to be your command.

Take a moment right now and ask Jesus to come into your life as Lord and Savior, you will not regret it.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

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