



# Pearls in Proverbs

## Lesson #2

Jim Hoffman

Your comments on  
Chapters 4-6

What say you?

# Working Definitions of some Key Words

- Wisdom –
  - Looking at *life* from God's point of view
  - *What* to do in life.
- Knowledge –
  - Facts and information about *life*
  - *How* to do what I ought to do.
- Understanding –
  - To be able to sort out the issues of *life*
  - *Why* I should do what I ought to.

# Proverbs 4:1-9

## Get wisdom and live.

- One of the most powerful ways to pass along our faith and values is through our passions.
  - Verse #1 – what we give our attention to
  - Verse #6 – what we love
  - Verse #7 – what we pursue
  - Verse #8 – what we value
- These verses also set forth a very positive approach to a righteous life.
  - All of the urges are to 'do' as opposed to a list of don'ts

# Proverbs 4:7

## Wisdom, the pearl of great price!

- **Wisdom has already been tied to ‘the fear of the Lord’, now it is called the ‘supreme’ or ‘principle’ thing.**
- **It is as though nothing else really counts or matters until you have a sure foundation to build upon.**
- **Life makes little sense and has little meaning apart from the wisdom that frames us in our rightful place under God.**
- **The invitation is not an exclusive one; on the contrary it seems to go out to all. It is not a decision of the mind, but of the heart.**
- **Get wisdom, no matter what the cost ..... And just what might that cost be?**

# Proverbs 4:10-19

## You get to choose.

- Two ways are set before us in these verses.... One is a peaceful highway that leads to a full life now and life everlasting.
- The peaceful highway is also a sensible one that is not just morally right, but also good in a practical way as well.
- Notice the urgency of verse #13 ...
  - Hold on to it
  - Guard it
  - Don't let it go

# Proverbs 4:10-19

## Stay Away

- Verses #14 & #15 cannot be more clear.
  - Don't set foot on the path of the wicked
  - Don't walk in the way of the wicked
  - Avoid the way of the wicked
  - Don't travel on the way of the wicked
  - Turn from the way of the wicked
- Do you see a strategy here?
- The strategy stands with one exception. What is that exception?

# Proverbs 4:10-19

## You get to choose.

- Verses #16 and #17 speak of some who pursue evil with all that they have.
  - Rom 6: 19
- Verses #18 and #19 tell of two distinct paths, one that is dark and one that is light.
  - I Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; NKJV

# Proverbs 4:20-27

## Stay focused.

- Verse #20 ... Pay attention to my words.
  - There is something very powerful about just staying focused on the simple truths of life.
  - There is a business slogan that reads, ‘take care of the small things and the big things will take care of themselves’.
  - Incline your **ear**, (NKJV)
  - Keep your **heart**
  - Put away perversity from your **mouth**
  - Keep corrupt talk from your **lips**
  - Keep your **eyes** forward
  - Find level paths for your **feet**
  - Keep your **foot** from evil

# Proverbs 4:20-27

## Job #1 in the fight against sin.

- Verse #23 – ‘Above all else, guard your heart’
  - Guard your ‘new heart’ I would say to you today.
  - We are all too aware that all of our sins originate in our minds.
  - G.I.G.O.

# Proverbs 5:1-6

## Marriage and seducers.

- Verse #4 mentions an 'end' and oh yes, there is an 'end' (an ugly one) when we are unfaithful.
- What may have begun sweet as honey and smooth as oil often ends with the person lying on a bed of nails with a sour after taste in his mouth.
- Affairs are seldom, if ever, just between two people. Others are invariably dragged in.

# Proverbs 5:1-6

## Marriage and seducers.

- In these proverbs it is the woman who is the temptress, but there is no reason why it could not have been written in reverse gender.
- She gives no thought to her way of life and tries to keep her prey from thinking as well. (what was he thinking?)

# Proverbs 5:1-14

## The cost.

- Look at the advice given to overcome this sin ....  
Verse #8, stay away!
  - If she is at work, get another job
  - If she is your neighbor, move
- If you don't ....
  - You are prone to disease
  - Likely to loose your money
  - You will loose your honor
  - You may loose your family

# Proverbs 5:15-23

## The best path.

- God is not unaware of the sexual needs and impulses that He put within us.
- There is, however, a right way to fulfill them.
  - Be a one-woman man, or a one-man woman
  - There was a sixties song entitled “love the one you’re with” .... They didn’t mean it this way, but if we love the one God has given us we will remove a lot of temptation from our path. (I Cor 13:4-8)
- Adultery is a trap – verse #22. (It is the old greener grass on the other side trap)

# Proverbs 6:1 – 5

## Be careful what you promise.

- The bible does not condemn generosity, but here it does warn against making pledges (signing notes perhaps) for others.
- Perhaps the lesson for us is that we should not put our ability to give to the kingdom at risk by gambling on our neighbor's ability to re-pay a loan.
- Our rule should be that if we can cover our promises without having to curb our giving to kingdom priorities, then do as you wish.
- Why is it so important that we protect our ability to give to kingdom priorities?

# Proverbs 6: 6 – 11

## Practical advice from an ant.

- The ant works unsupervised. The corporate world recognizes and appreciates such a work ethic.
- The ant has what amounts to a savings account for times when it will have no income.
  - Save & invest as the Lord leads.
- The reward of laziness is poverty. Not all poor people are lazy, but it is one of the causes.
  - II Thes 3:10

# Proverbs 6: 12-15

## Payday Someday

- These verses are a strong warning to the evil bully and a consolation to the righteous. The promise is that there will come a day when the bully gets his due.
- Disaster will come upon him quickly without mercy ..... it may not be in this life, but it will be certain at his death.
- Our challenge is how to muster the courage and compassion to minister to bullies so as to save them from their certain fate.
  - Ever have someone you were afraid to witness to?

# Proverbs 6: 16-19

## Seven Abominations

- The six or seven question? Why start by saying six and then immediately change it to seven? The reason is probably just poetic.
- What kinds of sins are these?
  - (1) Sin of attitude (haughty eyes)
  - (1) Sin of thought (wicked schemes)
  - (2) Sins of speech (lying tongue, false witness)
  - (2) Sins of action (hands that shed blood, feet that rush to evil)
  - (1) Sin of influence (stirs up dissension) John 17

# Proverbs 6: 20 - 35

## The Details of Adultery

- Verses 20-23 bring us back to the simple truth that we need to live by the simple truth that God's ways are always the best ways.
- The attractions of adultery are all about the flesh.
  - Smooth enticing speech (24)
  - Outward beauty (25)
  - Flashing eyes (25)

# Proverbs 6: 20 - 35

## The Details of Adultery

- The lasting rewards (?) of adultery.
  - Your life is weakened both physically and spiritually. (Vs 26)
  - You will be marked like one who has been playing with fire. (Vs 27-28)
  - Men who steal to support their families are far above men who steal to satisfy their lust. (30)
  - In a healthy society there are also social consequences to pay. (33)
  - Disgrace, shame, and perhaps he could even be shot by his lover's husband. (34-35)

# Proverbs 6: 20 - 35

## The Details of Adultery

- Proverbs does not deal with divorce, but since it is so frequently linked to adultery we will deal with it here.
  - The fact is that there is an ever growing number of divorced Christians.
  - Some through their own fault, but many were innocent victims.
  - We better find a way to minister to both.

# Proverbs 6: 20 - 35

## The Details of Adultery

- So we must ask this question; why is it that this sin (adultery) besets Christians at an alarming rate?
- And then to follow-up; how could we minister prevention and/or recovery to those in our midst?

# Associations

- [1:10](#) My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.
- [1:11](#) If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:
- [1:12](#) Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:
- [1:13](#) We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:
- [1:14](#) Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:
- [4:14](#) Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.
- [4:15](#) Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.
- [9:6](#) Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.
- [13:20](#) He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
- [19:27](#) Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.
- [22:25](#) Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.
- [24:1](#) Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.
- [25:5](#) Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness
- [.29:24](#) Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

# Authority

- [20:2](#)The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul.
- [20:8](#)A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.
- [20:26](#)A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.
- [24:21](#)My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:
- [24:22](#)For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?
- [24:23](#)These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.
- [24:25](#)But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.
- [25:2](#)It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.
- [25:5](#)Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.
- [25:15](#)By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.
- [29:21](#)He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.
- [29:26](#)Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.
- [31:4](#)It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:

Questions / Comments