

Listen: Wisdom is calling!

KSBC August 23, 2009

The 12 Year Old Talk

Proverbs 5:1-23

Intro. The world mocks it. Many marriages misrepresent it. Our own desires at times make it seemingly impossible. The enemy of God himself campaigns against it. The vast majority ignore it. The truth that is mocked, misrepresented, seemingly impossible, attacked and ignored is this . . . sexual intimacy is most meaningful, enjoyable and satisfying when limited exclusively to a one man, one woman covenant of marriage. That is the message the father is teaching his son in Proverbs chapter 5. We were made by God with sexual passions and desires. Our sexuality is a part of who we are as God created male and female and then said, 'this is good.' As introduced last Sunday in our study of Proverbs chapter 2, one of the greatest challenges to living a life of wisdom – knowing and fearing God – is the misuse of sexual intimacy.

Four of the first seven chapters of Proverbs include extended speeches from the father to the son intended to prepare the son to channel his developing sexual desires away from the dangers of sexual sin and toward the delights of marital love. The punch line of these speeches is not simply strong appeals and reasons to stay away from something wrong that looks and feels incredibly appealing, but it is the amazing description and pictures of sexual delight within the covenant of marriage that draw the imagination of the young man toward God's design. The hook is set after the sexual delights of the married, not the unmarried and supposedly free, are taught. Then the wise Dad says, after looking at marital sexual intimacy, who would ever not wait, protect, fight, guard and do all kinds of seemingly anti-world things to channel their sexual passions toward marriage(5:20)?

We have to acknowledge this morning that we do not approach this subject with blank slates. The seduction of the adulteress and wayward wife of sexual sin has touched us all in one way or another. She regularly visits our homes and we too often visit hers. Both the scriptures and our experience remind us of the bitter consequences of turning down the street marked sexual freedom and expression only to find that it is a dead end of slavery and shame. Whether it is the pain from abuse and betrayal, the guilt of wrong choices and habits, the very real consequences of ruined relationships and wasted opportunity or the complexities of sexual struggles within your marriage . . . we all bring our perspectives and deep seated feelings to this subject. Empowered by hell itself our world and culture is absolutely untiring and merciless in its ongoing efforts to seduce us away from our loving and good God in things sexual.

Proverbs 5 is 'the talk' that a wise Dad orchestrates with his sexually developing son. Let's look over his shoulder and listen carefully with the intent of allowing God's truth about sexuality refresh, renew and redirect our lives toward the joy of wisdom. That we may find new hope as we know God in all our ways, including sex.

Proverbs 5:1-23

The wise father's 'sex talk' can be broken down to three basic components or message themes:

Be aware of the seductive appeal of sexual sin.	1-6
Control your sexual desires away from sexual sin.	7-14
Guide your sexual desires toward the delights of marital love.	15-20

1. Be aware of the seductive appeal of sexual sin. 1-6

Note the clear warning and appeal to the son by the father . . . the son will face strong and repeated attempts of persuasion in various forms to reject wisdom – God's way – to follow the way of sexual sin. Wisdom appeals to us today in a relentlessly sex charged world to be aware of how diligent and committed the seductress of sexual sin is to make it easy to enter into her company and turn down her street. Listen to wisdom's lessons . . .

- Appreciate the truth about marital love. 1-2

The beginning point of preparedness to do battle with sexual temptation is appreciating the truth about God's design for sex within marriage. The clear implication of 'your lips' guarding or preserving knowledge is that the young person can talk the truth back to the temptress.

The truth about sex from the Bible can be expressed in the following talking points. The purpose of sexual desire and passion is to drive us toward our created mission of knowing and glorifying God. Sexual desire and passion drives or directs us in the following ways:

- Sexual union reflects God's oneness Gen. 1:26-27; 2:24-25
- Sexual intimacy is a metaphor to help us understand intimacy with God Hos. 2
- Sexual pleasure provokes worship of God as the giver of joy Prov.5:18
- Sexual faithfulness helps unravel the mystery of Christ's love for the church Eph.5:31-32
- Sexual reproduction glorifies God by multiplying and filling the earth Gen1:28
- Sexual participation expresses God-like love to your spouse. 1Cor. 7 other focused

The truth about sexuality changes the discussion from merely 'saving myself' for marriage because I am so special, to the incredible value and joy of living now to honor and glorify our great God.

The truth about sexuality forces the discussion out of the dark rooms of shame and embarrassment into the open light of purpose and joy.

- Understand the power of sexual marketing. 3

The father interjects into his appeal vivid and arresting word pictures to warn of the power of sexual persuasion. In the back room, gathered around the idea board, the marketing

demons are focused on one question that drives their entire campaign – how can we make it easy for people to enter into the company of the seductive woman – sexual sin?

Two specific components of the power or attractiveness of sexual sin should be noted:

- Persuasive language 3

- Direct demographic appeal 1-3

Note the intersection of the generational transition of the boy, the horizontal appeal of the seductress and vertical appeal from the father to God.

Gen. 3 Serpent/Eve dialogue

- Remember sexual sin never delivers on its promises. 4-6

‘In the end’ is a sobering reminder that there is always an ‘afterwards.’ The results of sexual sin are very real but often hidden in the appeal and ignored because of passion. Sexual sin degrades sex into a mere urge that must find an outlet. The results can be staggering.

- Promised sweetness becomes bitterness and pain. 4

- Promised life turns toward death. 5

- Promised stability becomes aimless wandering. 6

2. Control your sexual desires away from sexual sin. 7-14

Because if you don’t . . .

- You will be exploited by others. 9-10
- You will be condemned by your conscience. 11-13
- You will end up on the brink of public ruin. 14

3. Guide your sexual desires toward the delights of marital love. 15-20

- Sexual delight is reserved for the privacy of marriage. 15-17
- Sexual delight is found exclusively with your wife/husband. 18-20
- Sexual delight is experienced in full view of your Lord God. 21-23

Conclusion

1. Commit your sexuality to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Repent, renew, rejoice. Eph.5:1-3ff
2. Turn to Christ with your sexual shame for forgiveness, cleansing and righteousness. 1Cor.6:9-11

Lk. 7:36ff

John 4

Study Questions

1. What questions, concerns or observations do you have from this study?
2. Find and read one of the other speeches in the early chapters of Proverbs where the father addresses this same subject. Notice any similarities? Any contrasts?
3. What are some of the common reasons that are taught that young people should avoid sexual sin? Are they included or mentioned in the Proverbs 5 speech?
4. Which component of sexual education is more important, the biological or the theological? Why? How can you shape your talk and teaching in practical ways to reflect the truth about sex from the Bible?
5. Investigate the 6 ways given in the sermon that sexual desire and passion direct us toward knowing God better. Are there other passages of scripture that come to mind to support these? Are there ways you see in scripture but not included in these six?
6. What terms or metaphors would you use to describe in today's culture the sweetness and smoothness of sexual seduction? How is sexual marketing done today? What are the most effective ways the 'seductress' speaks today?
7. What are the implied factors from this speech that help, direct and guard this son from incredible danger at such a vulnerable time in his life? How can we mimic not only the content but the method of Proverbs 5 in our families and youth programming?
8. What is involved in a good, effective word of warning? How can parents and teachers make warnings of danger and unfulfilled expectations effective . . . how does the father in 5:4-6 do it?
9. What is the message of 1Cor. 6:9-11 to the person who jumped the fences and ignored the warnings in the area of sexual sin? How can we better communicate this hope in the same breath as we issue the warnings of Proverbs 5?
10. What do you want to use, do or remember as a result of this study?