

Proverbs 6:20-7:27

~ My Son...Consider the High Cost of Sexual Sin ~

Introduction

We can get ourselves into **a lot of trouble** when listening to the wrong kinds of people!

That's what happened to a **little wooden boy** in the classic tale of Pinocchio...

At one point in the story Pinocchio has just escaped being **roasted alive** on an open fire which you think would make him more **wise** and **discerning** when it comes to deceivers in the world!

But nevertheless as he's **heading back** to his Father's house – he has **5 golden coins** in his pocket!

And on his way back he meets a **sneaky fox**; pretending he cannot walk – and a **sneaky cat**;
pretending he **cannot see**!

And so they try to get their victim to **turn aside** – but their victim must be getting home:

The worse for you – Cries the fox!

The worse for you – Repeats the cat!

You're throwing away a golden opportunity – they say!

And so the fox proceeds to tell the boy about 'Dodo-Land' where if he buries his **5 golden coins** in the field of miracles, waters the ground, and sprinkles a little salt – he'll wake up the next day to a beautiful tree **clustered** with thousands of golden coins!

And so the enticement is **just too much** for poor little Pinocchio!

And so he ends up following the **sly pair** on this journey to the field of miracles – only to find himself alone one night **on a dark road** getting mugged by **2 cloaked assassins**...who strangely **both have** tall bushy tails!

And so Pinocchio gets beaten for money – mugged for his coins:

And he ends up paying a **very high cost!**

Now you Christian are Pinocchio!

You too are **on a journey** to your Father's home!

And **you too** are going to have **sneaky thieves** and **sly devils** trying to pull you **off the path** of life!

That's what we saw in Proverbs chapter 1 when we started this series:

*My Son if sinners entice – **do NOT consent** to their evil!*

And one particular **bill** of goods that the **foxes of this world** will try to sell is the **promise of pleasure** through **the lie** of sexual sin

One pastor notes:

*The Devil promises riches in the Dodo-land of sexual immorality. "Come aside" he says
"and I'll turn your five-coined-pleasure into a thousand..."*

But the reality of course is that:

*He **mugs you** in the dark!*

He's going to **lie to you!**

He will **deceive you!**

And he will make you pay **the high cost** of sexual sin!

That's what the **father** is warning his sons about in Proverbs 6 & 7!

Laziness & Lust

Now **last week** we saw the father addressing his son on the topic of:

Laziness

Laziness in money!

Laziness in ethic!

Laziness in life!

And what we saw was that:

Lazy boys grow up to become dangerous men!

Well this week **we're gonna see** where that laziness takes us!

You see laziness & lust **often go together!**

Laziness & lust are just **2 areas** of a young man's life that he needs to get **self-control** over!

Often it is the children in life who are allowed to **be lazy** – to **make excuses** – and to have **everything** given to them on a silver platter:

Those are the kinds of kids who are **most prone** to fall into the trap of:

Adultery!

And pornography!

And sexual immorality!

Because they were allowed to **make** excuses **earlier on** in their lives!

They were **allowed to be lazy!**

They were **allowed to give up!**

They were allowed to **indulge** in the passions of their desires!

And therefore they were taught:

How to **give in** to the way of sexual sin!

And so Solomon here is warning his sons – his daughters – and all people about:

The high cost of sexual sin

Here we go again

But maybe you're sitting there **thinking to yourself** – why are we **here again** talking about:

The dangers of sexual sin!

I thought we **already covered** this several weeks ago back in Proverbs chapter 5?!?!

And **don't worry** we did!

Indeed we did!

And I've been asking myself **the very same question** – all week long preparing this sermon:

Why in the world am I **dealing again** with the battle of sexual sin?!?!

I thought I covered this in Proverbs chapter 5!

Repetition

But see as you start to read the **Proverbs consistently** – and as you start to read **all of the bible consistently** – you start to see a general pattern **of repetition!**

You start to **become aware** that:

Truth often needs to be said on **more than one** occasion!

Biblical truth **needs to be repeated!**

It's the reason that you read **the same thing** throughout the bible:

And they forgot the law of Moses!

And they forgot the covenant with Abraham!

They abandoned the way of their fathers!

Over and over again – it's the **same story** on repeat:

God's people are prone to forget!

God's people are prone to walk-away!

And so as the Creator of the world – God knows what **we need to hear** far more than what we do!

He knows what needs **repeating** – and He knows what needs **emphasising**!

Some of you

And He also **knows** that there are people in this church – and people here this morning who **probably didn't** listen the **first time** around...

Some of you are still **playing with fire**!

Some of you are holding fire **close to your chest**!

And some of you have **continued on down** the **path** & the **pain** of sexual temptation!

And so this is God's **loving/kind/ & generous warning** to you who would spurn the grace of God!

And this is His **heavy hand** of **grace** trying to **wake you up** from the **slumber** & the **sewer** of your sin!

Calling you **to repent** – and **to turn** – and **to see** the joy of **obedience & faith** that is found in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Main Point

And so as we come to this passage in Proverbs chapters 6 & 7 – the main thing we’re gonna see is that:

The high cost of sexual sin is that it is both deceptive and destructive!

2-point outline:

The Price of Adultery

A Parable of Adultery

Proverbs 6

So follow along as we read Proverbs chapter 6 – beginning at verse 20:

My son, keep your father’s command, and do not reject your mother’s teaching. ²¹ Always bind them to your heart; tie them around your neck. ²² When you walk here and there, they will guide you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; when you wake up, they will talk to you. ²³ For a command is a lamp, teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the way to life.

Opening Gambit

The book of Proverbs is a book **chiefly designed** to display God’s **infinite** wisdom in the world!

Proverbs is God’s gift to us!

God loves us – He created us to know Him/ to love Him – He knows what we need far **better than** what we **ever do!**

He knows **what kind of life** leads to blessing!

And He knows the **life** that leads to **pain!**

And He knows that all true **joy & obedience** ultimately begins:

By looking to the word of God!

This is where the battle for all sexual sin & temptation is **ultimately fought!**

Parents

And Solomon begins:

My son, keep your father's command, and do not reject your mother's teaching...

How striking it is that the **first appeal** in fighting against sexual sin & temptation is found in the command to:

Honour your Father & Mother

Have you **ever thought about** that connection?!?!

That the key to battling against sexual sin & temptation for Solomon begins with:

Listening to your parents!

To obey the voice of your parents!

*This is the **first** commandment **Paul says** with a promise – Ephesians 6:2!*

And the promise is:

*That it **may go well with you** in the land!*

Presumably then **it going well for you** would include things like:

Purity!

Holiness!

Fighting against sin!

Fighting against lust!

Fighting against temptation!

Parents then have a **critical role** in shaping their children's view of sex & sexual desires

It begins at a **very young age** by parents modelling faithful/godly/biblical marriages to their children – and then **it develops** in **those later years** when parents talk to their teens about biblical sexual purity!

But the point is that:

This task is a **team effort!**

This is a whole-team project!

It takes both a father and a mother to do this!

One pastor says:

Little boys who refuse to obey their mother's instruction will soon be in the prostitute's bed...

Now – that's sounds **overly dramatic!**

It sounds **overly extreme!**

It sounds **audacious!**

Romans 1

And yet **how fitting it is** that Paul in Romans 1 puts:

*The sin of disobedience to parents **right alongside** the sins of **pride, lust – folly – & depraved sexual desires!***

In other words:

These 2 things (**for Solomon**) are **deeply connected!**

The boy/girl who ignores **correction in the home** is the boy/girl who ignores **wisdom in the bedroom**

And so the way that parents are to accomplish this task of biblical teaching – Solomon says is:

Through the word of God

Verse 21 says:

To bind them on your heart; and tie them around your neck...

Now remember in Hebrew thinking **the heart** was the place in which your **inner-most affections** would dwell – and **the neck** was the place in which your **entire life direction** would follow!

And so to **bind** them on your **heart** – and to **tie** them on your **neck** is a Hebrew expression to speak of:

A full life **dependency!**

A full and total **consumption!**

This is your **entire life direction!**

Everything you are – and everything you do is to be **guided by – & directed by – & governed by**
God's Holy Word!!

So far as your parents are **loving their children** – so far as they are **teaching them faithfully** – then the commands and instructions of the Scriptures is that:

They are to be **guiding your entire life!**

That's why in verse 22 – he says:

²² When you walk here and there, they will guide you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; when you wake up, they will talk to you...

It's **NOT** talking about the **parents** there – it's talking about the **word of God!**

You see if we keep God's word **only some of the time** – if we store it up only some of the week – then we're **NOT going** to have much hope in fighting our **sin & temptation!**

It's no good talking about resisting sin's seduction – if you **haven't first internalized** the word of God!

If you have NOT first bound His word on the tablets of your heart!

Wisdom is useless against sin's temptation – unless it has **first been internalized!**

God's words is **NOT just a one day a week** thing – something we do only on a **Sunday morning** – but it is to be the consistent & constant meditation **binding** our hearts!

Verse 23

And **even when** His word is correcting you – and even when it is disciplining you – **even then** Solomon says you are still commanded to obey its wisdom!

You see that in verse 23:

For a command is a lamp, and teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the way to life...

This is echoing Psalm 119:

*Your word is a **lamp to my feet** and a **light to my path!***

In the ancient world they **didn't have** lights that lined the **city streets** to indicate the direction of your path!

There didn't have any **light pollution!**

Or **neon signs** telling you where to go!

And so everywhere you went in the ancient world **at night** what you needed was a lamp/ you needed a torch/ or a fire/ or a light – just some **kind of source** by which you could see the path and **NOT** fall away!

And that's the **kind of image** that we in Proverbs 6!

God's word (**metaphorically speaking**) is that light!

It is **illuminating** – it is **motivating** – and it's the **single most important guide** in showing us **where** we are to walk!

Verse 24

Or in the case of verse 24:

Where we are to avoid!

Or the places in which we are **NOT** to be walking!

Verse 24:

For they [the commandments of God/ the wisdom of your parents/ the teachings of the Scriptures] – they will protect you from an evil woman, and from the flattering tongue of a wayward wife...

So this is that woman we met in Proverbs chapter 5!

This is the woman we met in Proverbs chapter 2!

And this is that **strange woman** who Solomon says:

Has abandoned her God and the companion of her youth!

And she's referred to as *strange* in some of your translations – **NOT** because **she's weird** – or **creepy** – but because she's *estranged* – she's **cut-off** – she's **outside of** the covenant community & people of God!

She does **NOT** walk according to the **covenant & customs** of the Hebrew people!

That's why in Proverbs 2 – Solomon says:

*She forsakes the **companion** of her youth; and she forgets the **covenant** of her God...*

3 Ways

And so this woman in Proverbs has abandoned her God **3 main ways** – **3 main areas** of her life that the wrath & judgment of God rests upon her:

1. First in *the simple act of* abandoning the Lord her **God**; she has exchanged the glory of God for images & idols of the glory of man – that's Romans chapter 1!

She **knows** the truth – and she **supresses** the truth!

2. Second – she has abandoned *the companion* of her youth; that is the **blatant act** of sinful adultery with another person!
3. And then third – she has abandoned the covenant people of Israel!

She is **NOT in fellowship** with the rest of the Hebrew community!

And so Solomon says that **on all 3 accounts** of her sin & sexual desires the **wrath** of God rests upon this adulterous woman!

Now **that alone** should be enough to tell you everything you need to know about avoiding the seductive woman – everything you need to know about **NOT going near** the door of her house!

But just in case **you're still tempted** to drink from the well of this **polluted river** – Solomon says:

Let me **demonstrate further** the cost it will take to drink from this well!

NOT gross

First notice verse 25 – he says:

Don't lust in your heart for her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyelashes...

Now notice that Solomon here **doesn't** say:

Now son, watch out for this woman – she's gross...

He **doesn't** say:

Son, look out for the adulterous woman she's really disgusting!

She's foul!

She's repulsive!

That's **NOT the argument!**

The argument is:

*Son, watch out for this woman – **NOT because** she **isn't** beautiful:*

But **because she is!**

It's **NOT** because she isn't beautiful – it's because **she is beautiful** and she'll **destroy a man!**

That's **the point** of her seduction!

That's **the point** of her temptation!

It **isn't** that this woman is **somehow inherently** gross – or unattractive – it's that:

She is beautiful – and **that's the thing** that is so dangerous!

And so **don't teach** your kids the **wrong view** of sex – by completely throwing out the baby with the bathwater!

Don't **lie to them** and say that a woman body is gross – immoral – & disgusting!

That's **NOT** the parenting Solomon has in mind!

Solomon is saying:

Teach them to look away because:

It needs to be enjoyed in **the right context!**

And so we need to have in our minds a category of thinking in which we are teaching our kids **NOT** that **sex** or **sexuality** are the things that's perverted – but that those things **need to be enjoyed** in the confines of a covenant marriage!

She takes a good gift and she turns it to an evil attraction!

One pastor notes:

*If only evil were always ugly, life would be so much simpler. If only everything were colour coated – if only there were warning labels on all the poisons – but in this world (he says) **disaster looks attractive!***

And then he quotes 2nd Corinthians 11:14:

For even Satan himself walks around as an angel of light...

Friends **this is the world** in which we live – and this is the world in which our **children live!**

This is the world that our children and grandchildren are growing up in – it's a world of **disaster & sin** that can look **overly attractive!**

Deception

And in fact, if it **wasn't attractive** – if it **wasn't tempting** then we **wouldn't** be drawn to it!

That's the whole point of deception!

And so Solomon says that we need **wisdom** – we need the wisdom **of** our **parents** – and we need the wisdom of **the Scriptures** in order to **see through** the **lies** that the enemy tries to sell!

Verse 26

This is why Solomon goes on in verse 26 to speak about:

High cost of sexual sin

Where will **this sin** ultimately lead us – well notice **verse 26**:

For a prostitute's fee is only a loaf of bread, but the wife of another man goes after a precious life...

Easy Access

Now these are probably some of the **most confusing** words in all of the Proverbs – and **commentators divide** on the meaning of verse 26:

For a prostitute's fee is only a loaf of bread...

I think the ESV is a little bit **clearer** on this:

The price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life...

Now it could be saying that sexual sin is:

A relatively easy sin to get into!

It's a relatively easy thing **to access** (only a loaf of bread)...

But the result is death!

The result is pain!

The consequences are absolutely devastating!

It will take your life in the end!

Maybe that's what Solomon means in verse 26!

Sin Will Cost

I think he's saying something **more profound!**

I think Solomon says at the **end of the day:**

All sin will ultimately cost!

At the end of the day:

All sin will **ultimately** cost you something!

Whether that's your house!

The cost of your car!

The cost of your marriage!

Your kids!

Your job!

Your status!

Your wealth!

Your income!

Like all sin will ultimately cost you **something big** in this life!

And it **doesn't matter** whether it's:

A small sin!
 A big sin!
 The sin of adultery!
 Pornography!
 Pride!
 Or prostitution!

All sin (at the end of the day) will **ultimately** pay!

But some sins **cost you more!**

Some **cost extra!**

Some sins have a **greater effect of damage** in the world!

And so paying for a woman to spend the night **in the ancient world** may only have cost you a **simple loaf of bread** – but sleeping with a married woman is going to cost you your life!

The point is that whatever you think **that sin** is going to cost – whatever you think the **price of** your sin is going to be – Solomon says that **you need to remember this:**

Sin always costs **more** than **what you think** it's going to cost!

That's the point of comparison in verse 26!

Whatever you think the cost of your sin is going to be – Solomon says:

Think again!

Sin always cost you **far more pain** than what you think it will cost!

Do **NOT** underestimate the high cost of sexual sin!

You think that your sin is **only going to cost you** a small/ and insignificant fee like **only a loaf of bread** – Solomon says:

Well think again my son – because your sin (your sexual sin) will end up **costing you your life!**

Unescapable

And if you **don't believe me** – if you **don't think** that's true – notice where he goes in verse 27:

*Can a man carry fire on his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on burning coals without scorching his feet? ²⁹ Well **so it is** with the one who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished...*

You see we think that we can **flirt with sin** and get away with it – we think that we can **play with fire** and **flirt with fire** and there be:

No long-term lasting consequences!

But Solomon says that if you **play with fire** in a way that is stupid:

You're gonna get burnt!

If you play with fire in a way that is foolish:

You're gonna get injured!

And **so it is** with everyone who **plays with sexual sin** thinking he will be okay:

And you're **going to pay** the ultimate price!

Universal Law

And so the point of this passage is **unmistakably clear**:

You and I can **no more sin** and escape the judgement of God – than we can **place our hand** on **burning hot coals** and NOT get burned!

It's impossible says Solomon!

We think that we can sin and **get away with it!**

We think we can break God's universal laws and get away with the consequences!

But **you and I** can **no more sin** and escape God's wrath – than we can **place our hand** on a **burning hot stove** and NOT get burnt!

It's going to happen!

Sooner or later – Numbers 32:23:

Be sure your sins will find you out

Costly

And **when they do** – when they do find you out – when you do **finally get caught** – Solomon says that you need to understand:

*It will be **painful** – it will be **hurtful** – and it will be:*

Unmistakably costly

Verse 30 – he says:

*People don't despise the thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry. ³¹ but still, if caught, he must pay seven times as much; he must give up all the wealth in his house. ³² but the one who commits adultery lacks sense; whoever does that destroys himself. ³³ He will get a beating and dishonour, and his disgrace **will never be removed...***

So Solomon is **trying really hard** to drive home the cost of our sexual sin!

And to do that he gives this illustration of the thief stealing some food:

Supposing a thief was wanting to steal some food because he needed to feed his home!

Let's pretend he **really hungry** – let's say he has **a wife** – some **children** – a **dog** & a **cat** that he's needing to feed!

And so **let's pretend** says Solomon:

That he steals some food to satisfy his home/his hunger!

Solomon says that:

*Even **though** that thief breaks the 8th commandment!*

Even though he commits this sin & crime in the eyes of God!

There is a sense in which we can actually **sympathise** with the thief!

There's a sense in which that sin makes sense!

We **can understand** why the thief would do that sin **to feed his home!**

Restitution

And **supposing** says Solomon – that that thief:

Eventually **got caught!**

He eventually **got convicted!**

The thief (Solomon says) **still has to pay back** the money that he stole!

He still has to **make full restitution** for the crime!

That's **the language** behind the phrase:

***Seven-fold** what he stole/7 times as much!*

It just means **full/ or total restitution!**

And when he does – **sometimes it will cost him** everything he has –all the goods of his home!

But at least the thief has **the ability** to make **right** the **wrongs** that he did!

That's the point of **verse 31!**

The thief **has the ability** to pay back the money that he stole – and things will **go back to pretty much** the way they were before!

He can go back to a life of relatively normal ease!

No Sense

But **NOT SO** with the sin of adultery

The sin of adultery makes **no sense!**

The sin of adultery **lacks all sense** – verse 32!

The sin of adultery can **never** fully be restored!

It can never be **fully repaid!**

The damage is irreversible!

The damage is irrevocable!

You see there is a sense in which the sin of adultery can never be **fully repaid!**

Verse 33:

*The adulterer will get a beating and dishonour, and his disgrace will **never be removed...***

It will never be removed!

It will **never** be made right!

It will **never** be repaired!

Yes there is **forgiveness!**

Yes there is **grace!**

Yes there are **stories of those** who have repaired a marriage that seemed **absolutely lost!**

But **even still** says Solomon – **in the end** there is a sense in which:

Adultery will never **fully be repaired!**

It will leave **irreversible scars** on the who is harmed!

One Flesh

And the reason why is because:

Adultery rips apart a covenant!

It rips apart a home!

It rips apart a **one-flesh bond** that was **formed** & **fashioned** by God Himself!

And it does it in the **worst possible** way!

In the **most violent** of ways!

In the **most gruesome** of ways!

And it does it in a way that **incites anger** in the heart of man – verse 34:

For jealousy enrages a husband, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge...

There is nothing that you can tell the husband of the woman that you committed adultery with – **that will calm him down!**

You **cannot** bribe him – you **beg** him!

You cannot please him!

The deed is done!

The covenant is broken!

And now the husband seeks revenge!

And you will now pay ***the high cost*** of sexual sin

Point 2

And so I wonder friends if you **still don't believe** that the consequences of sin are **really this high!**

I wonder if there is something inside of you that still says:

No I think sexual sin is worth it!

Proverbs 7

And if so – then turn over to Proverbs chapter 7!

Because now in chapter 7 Solomon says **the same thing** he says in chapter 6 but **now he says it:**

With a story!

He says it with a **parable!**

So instead of just telling his son about the **dangers & damage** of sexual sin!

Solomon seeks to **illustrate it!**

To **demonstrate it!**

To **dramatize it!**

Or we could say:

Chapter 6 was the **book** – **chapter 7** is the **screen play!**

If **chapter 6** was the **story** – then in **chapter 7** the **story** now comes to life!

Chapter 7 **illustrates** what chapter 6 **demonstrates!**

Lacking Sense

And it begins there in **verse 6** of **chapter 7** – he says:

*At the window of my house I looked through my lattice. ⁷ and I saw among the inexperienced
[inexperienced is another word for stupid]... I noticed among the youths **a young man
lacking sense***

So Solomon says:

One day when looking out of my lattice – I saw **a sea of stupid people!**

Solomon says:

If all the moron – in all the moron world – got together to create their own moron village –
out all the morons – in that village:

This guy would **king!**

This guy would be king moron of the morons!

Ignorant

How do we know – well notice there in verse 8:

*Crossing the street near **her corner**, he strolled down the road to **her house** ⁹ **at twilight**, in **the evening**, in **the dark of the night**...*

So here we have an **ignorant** guy – doing an **ignorant** thing – in an **ignorant** way!

This is one who **doesn't keep** wisdom close!

He is one who **doesn't bind** God's word on his neck!

He is **one** who **doesn't think through** the consequences of his actions!

He lacks all wisdom!

The language here **very clearly implies** that he knows **exactly what he's doing** – and he **doesn't care** that he's doing it!

So he's **NOT directly** walking the path of sin!

But he's getting very close!

He's flirting with folly – flirting with temptation – flirting with adultery!

And this dumb sucker walks intentionally **at night** – in **the dark** – **down the street** – on **the corner** – past the **loose woman's house!!!**

LIKE **What did He THINK** WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!

The father has already told the son in Proverbs 5:

Don't go near the door of her house!

Don't listen to her words!

Don't give in to her seduction!

And here he is **intentionally doing** the **complete opposite** of the father's wisdom!

How do **you think** this is gonna go?!?!

Temptation

But friends this is how temptation unfolds **all the time!**

People walk at the **stupidest of times** – in the **stupidest of ways** – thinking they won't get caught!

Thinking they won't **fall in** to the trap of seduction!

One pastor says:

Not a lot of good happens after 10 P.M at night...

You remember that young people!

And maybe that's why parents (because they love you) – give you a curfew!

In fact most of the **biggest blunders** that you've probably committed **most likely occurred:**

When you **should have been sleeping!**

When you should have **been resting!**

In the middle of the night – you got up – and you were probably up to no good!

And this young man is **foolishly/ flirting with sin!**

He intentionally goes where he knows he **should NOT** have gone – because he **knew exactly** what he was **going to see there!**

Maybe he **didn't mean** to end up in the strange woman's bedroom – but he was **pretty happy** being on her street... he was pretty happy being in her **driveway** – and then in her **doorway** – and then in **her living room** etc etc etc...

And this is how it always goes!

No one wakes up one day thinking:

I'm gonna commit adultery!

I'm gonna ruin my home!

I'm gonna cheat on my wife!

I'm gonna cheat on my husband!

Solomon says that **there are several steps involved** before the sin takes place that you need to look out for!

The Harlot

Verse 10:

A woman came to meet him dressed like a prostitute, having a hidden agenda...

If you go looking for sin – **Solomon says:**

Sin will come looking for you!

If you go looking for sin – sin will **gladly come & meet you** where you are!

And sin **when it comes** will look appealing – it always **looks worth it** verse 10:

This woman is dressed like a prostitute!

She is dressed to attract the eyes of this young's man's heart!

And her heart – verse 11:

Is loud and defiant!

Her attire is fundamentally a manifestation of her heart!

That's **why she's dressed** the way that **she is!**

Her **dress** – reflects **the condition** of her heart!

She is the **opposite** of a Proverbs 31 wife – she is the **opposite** of a gentle and quiet spirit!

Hypocrisy

And she's the opposite of a **woman who fears** the LORD – Verse 13:

She brazenly says to him, ¹⁴ "I've made fellowship offerings; and today I have fulfilled my vows. So I came out to meet you, to search for you, and I've found you..."

This is her smooth tongue – her silky words – her flattering speech!

She appeals to the **inner man** – by appealing to religious devotion!

She has this bold & brazen hypocrisy!

She assures him with religion!

I've made fellowship offerings; and today I have fulfilled my vows...

So with her mouth **she confesses** God – but **with her life** she rejects Him!

She **cloaks her life** in religious hypocrisy!

She tries to justify her **sinful actions** through **religious words**!

Infidelity

But verse 16 says she's **already set** her trap:

I've spread coverings on my bed— richly coloured linen from Egypt.

¹⁷ *I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.* ¹⁸

These are all spices spoken of in ***Song of Songs*** as relating to the marriage bed – things relating to covenant love!

But this woman is **NOT interested** in marriage – she's **NOT interested** in covenant love because:

She has a husband!

She's already taken!

Verse 19:

My husband isn't home; he went on a long journey. ²⁰ He took a bag of silver with him and will come home at the time of the full moon...

Now remember we just read in chapter 6:34:

For jealousy enrages a man, and he will show no mercy when taking revenge!

So this is somebody else's wife!

This is somebody else's' flesh!

And the concern is:

I don't want to be murdered by an enraged man wielding a gun!

And so she says:

Don't worry he's gone for a month!

One pastor says:

*What's amazing about this promise is that she's **offering safety** – she offers security but the adulterous woman in the book of Proverbs is:*

Anything but safe

And so in verse 22:

*He follows her impulsively like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer bounding toward a trap ²³ until an arrow pierces its liver, like a bird darting into a snare—**he doesn't know** it will cost him his life...*

Friends do you see the danger that this young man is in?!?!

He doesn't know that he's caught in a snare – he **doesn't know** that he's about to die – **he doesn't know** it will cost him his life!

What that means – is that:

You can have feelings – like **genuine feelings** that all of these warnings **don't apply** to you – and you can think – you can **honestly think** that you're gonna be okay... and all of those feelings and all of those emotions:

Don't mean **anything** when it comes to truth!

Your feelings **don't mean a thing** when it comes to reality!

You're still going to die!

It doesn't matter **if you think** you're gonna be okay:

You're **NOT** gonna be okay!

You're going to die!

If you click on that site – if you flirt with that woman – if you go near that man – and you assume that you're safe:

You're going to die dear Christian

It will lead you to your ultimate demise!

Verse 26:

For she has brought many down to death; and her victims are countless. ²⁷ Her house is the road to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death...

Sexual sin –always promises life – but only delivers death!

Sexual sin is always **deceptive** – it's always **destructive**!

And it always ends in pain!

Synod of Dort

And so what are we to do with this text – how do we respond?

Because some of you have committed this very sin – some of you have committed adultery – others of you have violated your marriage vows – all of us have lusted & sinned in some sort of **sexually perverted way**!

And all of us deserve the **just judgement** and wrath of a holy God!

In fact I was **reading this week** a creed written 400 years ago from *the Synod of Dort*...

Dort was a **big theological meeting** in 1618 where leaders from **all over Europe** got together to discuss the Doctrines of Grace – or Calvinism as they’ve come to be known – or **T.U.L.I.P** is the modern acronym!

And in one particular section of this creed known as *the effects of sin* – the writers of Dort say that:

By our sin we greatly offend God, we deserve the sentence of death, grieve the Holy Spirit, suspend the exercise of faith, severely wound the conscience, and sometimes lose the awareness of grace for a time...

You see the high cost of sexual sin is more than just a simple loaf of bread!

It is more than making a payment for a **small infraction** of theft in the Kingdom of God!

The high cost of sexual sin is both:

Deception & destructive!

Damaging & deluding!

Wicked & wayward!

And ultimately all sin incurs the just judgement and wrath of a holy God!

But see the remedy for our sin and for our seduction is found in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ – the canons go on to say that:

God, who is rich in mercy, according to the unchangeable purpose of election does not take the Holy Spirit from his own completely, even when they fall [into grievous sin]...but after they have returned to the right way by genuine repentance, God's fatherly face again shines upon them again...

This is the hope that we have in our sin!

Conclusion

And 2000 years ago Jesus Christ the righteous King came into the world to seek and to save **sexually perverted** sinners like us!

And by trusting in the work of His finished grace – you can have your sin forgiven – you can have your sin cleansed – and you can be restored back to full restoration – full reconciliation:

IN JESUS CHRIST!

Jesus takes your sin and He put it on Himself!

So if you want to know freedom – if you want to know forgiveness:

Trust in Christ **and believe** that **His grace** is enough!

Proverbs 6:20-7:27

Discussion Questions

[Read Proverbs 6:20-7:27].

Main Point: *The high cost of sexual sin is that it is both deceptive and destructive.*

Q1. In your own words, what is the main point of these verses? – How do these verses link in with Proverbs 6:1-19? – Why do you think Proverbs repeats the warning about sexual sin so many times? – What does this tell us about the nature of truth and God's heart?

Q2. [Read Proverbs 6:20-23; 7:1-5]. – What is Solomon saying here? – Why is treasuring Scripture and storing it up in your heart a significant tool in the battle against temptation? – What are some practical ways to store up God's word in your heart?

Q3. Why does Solomon link obedience to parents with the fight against sexual sin (6:20-22)? – What does this suggest about the role of biblical parenting?

Q4. [Read verse 26]. What is Solomon saying about the nature of sin? – **[Read verses 30-33?]** – What is the point of comparison here? – Why does the sin of adultery (v.32–33) bring irreparable consequences, even when there is forgiveness?

Q5. What observations are there from Proverbs 7? – How does the gospel apply to a sermon like this?