

The Adulteress

Proverbs 5:1-6
Charlie Brackett

Solomon began this section with the words,

My son, give attention to my wisdom,
Incline your ear to my understanding;
That you may observe discretion,
And your lips may reserve knowledge.

Solomon particularly addressed young men because his warning has special application to them, at least in Solomon's time if not now. But what he has to say applies to all: young and old, male and female. The instruction he gives is of great importance, and wise old Solomon wanted to first get our attention before he spoke. He said, "Give attention." You know, sometimes we are hard of hearing. Not because of any biological difficulty, but because of preoccupation with the world or our own egos. What Solomon is about to say is worth hearing. His words are divinely wise and understanding. Those who heed his warning exercise discretion and truth. Now, having introduced the lesson, let's read verses 3-6 and see what he had to say that is so important.

For the lips of an adulteress drip honey,
And smoother than oil is her speech;
But in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.
Her feet go down to death.
Her steps lay hold of Sheol.
She does not ponder the path of life;
Her ways are unstable, she does not know it.

Here is a lesson that is urgently needed today. Adultery is apparently considered by most to be acceptable behavior. The TV is filled with it. Many a young couple lives together without benefit of matrimony. Divorce and remarriage for any cause runs rampant. Some seem to think no-fault divorce is a sign of an enlightened society. Why, I met a young couple getting a divorce because he doesn't pay enough attention to the children. My friend, God is not pleased by any of this. The Bible says, "Flee fornication" and fornication is defined as any sexual act between two people who are not married to each other in God's sight. And we must hasten to say God does not sanction the union of many who are entering a second or third marriage, and He does not approve of two people of the same sex being married to each other.

Listen to Solomon! The lips of an adulteress are like honey and her speech is smoother than oil. Adultery beckons enticingly and many of us are being deceived. What is the result? Her end is bitter. The result is as devastating as a sharp, two-edged sword. She leads to death and the grave. Adultery is in every way contrary to life, both here or hereafter. What's worse the adulteress doesn't know herself how bad off she is. She is totally deceived and deceives those who are seduced by her.