Series: Ancient Wisdom

**Proverbs for Your Purity**

Proverbs 7:1-23, September 24, 2017

Intro: Pretend you’re a zebra. We’re going to talk about lions.

1. The Prey (vv. 6-9)

1. Easy targets can be identified by their company.

* v. 7 *among the simple*
* v. 7 *among the youths*

1. Easy targets don’t listen to advice.

* v. 7 *I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense*

1. Easy targets stray from the herd.

* vv. 7-8 *a young man lacking sense, passing along the street*

1. Easy targets play with fire

* v. 8 *passing along the street near her corner*
* v. 8 *taking the road to her house*
* v. 9 *in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness*
* Proverbs 6:27 *Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?*

Q. Dangerous company (v. 7) can take many forms. What are some of the negative spiritual and moral influences in your life?

Q. How is it that the person in v.7 had reached young adulthood but still “lacked sense?”

Q. In what ways do we “stray from the herd” today? Why is this so dangerous?

Q. How can we discern whether behaviour, which may not be sinful in itself, is “playing with fire” or not?

2. The Hunter (vv. 10-21)

1. The hunter dresses to seduce.

* v. 10 *the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute*

1. The hunter is always on the prowl.

* v. 11 *her feet do not stay at home*
* v. 12 *now in the street, now in the market, and at every corner she lies in wait*
* 1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

1. The hunter stuns its prey.

* v. 13 *She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face*

1. The hunter appeals to the senses.

* **Physical** v. 14 *I had to offer sacrifices*
* **Spiritual** v. 14 *today I have paid my vows*
* **Emotional** v. 15 *now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you*
* **Material** vv. 16-17 *I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen; I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.*
* **Sensual** v. 18 *Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love.*

1. The hunter hides his claws

* v. 19 *my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey*
* v. 20 *he took a bag of money with him*

Q. What was the woman’s motivation in pursuing the young man?

Q. What is Satan’s motivation in seeking to attack Christians?

Q. To what extent are you aware you’re being stalked spiritually?

3. The Shield (vv. 22-23, 1-5)

1. Recognizing the consequences of sin is a shield against the hunter.

* v. 22 *he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter*
* v. 23 *he does not know that it will cost him his life*

1. Treasuring God’s Word is a shield against the hunter.

* v. 1 *keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you*
* v. 2 *keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye*
* v. 3 *bind them on your fingers; write them on … your heart*

1. Three people God gives as a shield against the hunter.

**Someone to confess your sins to**.

* James 5:16 *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

**A spouse to share your life with.**

* Proverbs 5:18 *rejoice in the wife of your youth*

**A Saviour to rescue you.**

* Proverbs 7:4-5 *Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call insight your intimate friend, to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words.*
* 1 Corinthians 6:15 *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!*

Q. How does God’s Word shield us against attack?

Q. Why is confession before others so important in breaking free from sin? Why is it so hard?

Q. How can you keep rejoicing in “the [spouse] of your youth” as you grow older?

Q. Where do you most need prayer in responding to this passage?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Proverbs 18:24.

**Notes:**