



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 3 - Day 4

Approaching God

Psalm 119:35-41 - NLT - *Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found. Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money! Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you. Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good. I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness. LORD, give me your unfailing love, the salvation that you promised me.*

Prayer: Slow down and savor the presence of God as you begin to meet with him and read his word. Take a moment and read Psalm 119 as your prayer to start today's time with God.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 7:1-27

Passage Introduction: A Father's appeal #10 - Flee Temptation

Proverbs chapter 7 dramatically depicts an act of adultery. In the process it teaches us how the heart falls into temptation. At the beginning of the tryst the woman says to her would-be lover that she has fulfilled her religious vows by making a fellowship offering at the temple (cf. Leviticus 3:1-17). This consisted of a meal that many could eat. So, she says, I have prayed and sacrificed to God. Now please come to my home to finish the religious observance. And because my husband is not home (7:19), we can then make love. Put more starkly: "After we finish our prayers and devotions we can commit adultery!" The disconnect between her public profession of faith and the conduct of her private life is startling but all too common. She has exchanged wholehearted discipleship for a magical view in which God is more like an idol who can be placated by various observances. We need to learn that unconditional obedience is the only sacrifice that is reasonable, in light of all God has done for us through creation and redemption (Romans 12:1-2).

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Proverbs 7:1-25 - NIV

1 My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; **2** keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; **3** bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call insight your intimate friend, **5** to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words. **6** For at the window of my house I have looked out through my lattice, **7** and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense, **8** passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house **9** in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness. **10** And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart. **11** She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home; **12** now in the street, now in the market, and at every corner she lies in wait. **13** She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she

says to him, **14** "I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows; **15** so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you. **16** I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen; **17** I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. **18** Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love. **19** For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey; **20** he took a bag of money with him; at full moon he will come home." **21** With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him. **22** All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast **23** till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life. **24** And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth. **25** Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, **26** for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. **27** Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

Daily Study Questions

- What 1 or 2 principles do you observe in this section?
- When in your life or the life of someone else have you seen this observation illustrated?
- How can you put this observation or principle into practice?

"How then can we defend ourselves against the many temptations that face us, whether they are in the arena of sex, money, power, or something else? First, watch your heart (7:25a). Temptation always starts in the inward thoughts. We can't stop ideas from occurring to us, but we must not entertain them. Fondling the secret thoughts, thinking out rationalizations, exploring the possible consequences—all of these trains of thought are allowing the temptation to make its case to us. Second, we must not stray into her paths (verse 25b). That is, we should literally stay away from places, situations, and persons that make it easy for our minds to go down the wrong trail. Third, we should assure ourselves of the inevitable damage and spiritual destruction that always come (a highway to the grave . . . down to the chambers of death—verse 27). Look down that highway and see the ultimate tragedy and wrongfulness of sin: It grieves God and spurns the sacrifice he made to save you in Jesus Christ."

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- Have you seen in your own life how these three strategies have helped you in exercising self-control and defense against temptation?