

The Strange Woman

Lesson Text:

1 Kings 11:1-5,9-11 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; 2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5...9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. 11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

Introduction: Solomon had great wisdom yet made foolish choices. A desire to satisfy the flesh and expand his political presence prompted him to take many wives and concubines. This initial sin grew into the great sin of idolatry.

Proverbs 5:1-8 My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: 2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. 3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. 6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them. 7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. 8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

2 Manners of Interpretation

- Some interpret this as a singular warning against sexual immorality, the harlot or marital infidelity.
- Some hold a broader view of it representing spiritual infidelity or idolatry.
- More accurately, it issues a warning against both types of sin, and shows the danger of falling prey to the latter if we practice the former.

I. The Strange Woman

A. Defining the Strange Woman

Judges 16:4-5 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.

- The strange woman is the seductress, a harlot, but not limited to a harlot.
- She represents that spirit of wickedness which seeks to entice mankind thru lust and draw their hearts away from God.

B. Identifying the Strange Woman in Today's Society?

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- The strange woman is not only permitted in our society, but she is exalted and given a great seat of influence.
- She can be found on billboards, magazine rack, television, internet, and music. She is in the supermarket, the clothing department and the office. Simply put, she is found everywhere in our society.

C. The Ways of the Strange Woman

Proverbs 5:3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:

Proverbs 5:6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

- As Homer's sirens, she lures men in with words that are sweet and pleasant to the ear. And a voice that is "smooth", easy to entertain.
- Her methods are ever changing, so that her victims may never see her destructive end always be chasing her crooked paths.

II. Sexual Immorality and it's Effect

A. Lust and the Progression of Sin

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- Notice there is a potential for all mankind to be drawn into temptation by way of the of lust.
- It begins with enticement, a method that our adversary has been perfecting for millennia. Remember, Adam and Eve wanted the one thing forbidden to them.
- Like a virus, sin has the ability to grow and change. It is progressive by nature, leading a person from one sin to the next even becoming resistant to some forms of treatment.

B. The Effect on Men

Proverbs 5:1 *My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:*

- Although none are exempt from her temptation, she preys on the young.
- Our young men are tempted and enticed by a false promise of pleasure and a false sense of what love and marital happiness is.
- When men entertain the strange woman, they give women the impression that they must be like her to gain his love.

C. The Effect on Women

Proverbs 31:30 *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

- Our young women are given a false expectation of who they should be and how they should seek love, the strange woman creates jealousy among young women, enticing them to indulge in the same practice.
- The strange woman is a recruiter of our young women.
- For all of our young people, the strange woman provides an allurements to what they do not have rather than finding contentment with what they do.
- She entices young men to be with her and young women to be like her.

D. The Effect on the Mind, Body and Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

1 Peter 2:11 *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

- The effects of sexual immorality are evidenced by the number of broken homes and confused children today.
- However, the effects go much deeper, even to the point of afflicting the spirit of men.

III. The Remedy

A. Submit and Flee

Genesis 39:7, 11-12 *And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.*

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- The strange woman is seeking for an entrance into the lives of God's people.
- We should avoid, as much as possible, our proximity to her.
- As Joseph, when faced with her enticement, we should RUN!

B. Focus

Matthew 6:22 *The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

- The strange woman surrounds us in our society.
- We may not have control over her presence but we do have control over our eyes and the ability, by the grace of God, to focus our thoughts.

C. The Wife of Thy Youth

Proverbs 5:18 *Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.*

Proverbs 5:15 *Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.*

- Sin has given us lust, God has given us love.
- It is our sinful nature which desires that which is forbidden, it is our regenerated nature to be content with the spouse that God has given us.

D. Thy First Love

Revelation 2:4-5 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

- Sexual immorality leads to spiritual infidelity.
- Let us never lose sight of our first love: Christ and his Church.