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Proverbs 6:23-35

23. “For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life
24. To keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.
25. Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her capture you with her eyelids.
26. For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, and an adulteress hunts for the precious life.
27. Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned?
28. Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?
29. So is the one who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; whoever touches her will not go unpunished.
30. Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry;
31. But when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; he must give all the substance of his house.
32. The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; he who would destroy himself does it.
33. Wounds and disgrace he will find, and his reproach will not be blotted out.
34. For jealousy enrages a man, and he will not spare in

the day of vengeance.

35. He will not accept any ransom, nor will he be satisfied though you give many gifts.”

This passage of Scripture contains many strong words of warning for those who are tempted to commit the sin of adultery. So many Christian men in our generation have been brought low and ruined by the passing pleasures of this sin. It is especially grievous when those in positions of church leadership succumb to adultery.

Most married people, at one time or another, will be tempted to commit this most destructive form of sin. Our adversary, the devil will make sure of that. How we handle ourselves in this area of our lives, as God’s people, is of utmost importance.

Verse 24 states that this scripture is written “to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.” Verse 25 continues, “Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her capture you with her eyelids.” Jesus also warned of this in Matthew 5:28: “Everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Those who flirt with the temptation of adultery will usually end up getting caught up in the act.

Our passage this morning then uses images of burning to impress on us the consequences of giving in to the temptation to commit adultery. Verses 27 and 28 ask:

“Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?” Then verse 29 states plainly, “So is the one who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; whoever touches her will not go unpunished.” God will surely punish with unquenchable fire, those who practice adultery.

Revelation 21:8 says of an immoral person, which includes adulterers: “Their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

But the consequences of adultery are not only limited to our eternity after this life, but also will destroy our life here and now. Verses 32 and 33 state, “The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; he who would destroy himself does it. Wounds and disgrace he will find, and his reproach will not be blotted out.”

Ruined reputations, public disgrace, broken families, pain, and sorrow are soon realized by the one who commits adultery.

Unless we personally digest and internalize the warning from God contained in this passage of Scripture, we will be vulnerable to the temptation to commit adultery. Our loved ones, our homes, our work for the Lord, and even our eternal salvation hangs in the balance. As Paul instructed the young evangelist Timothy, we are to relate to “older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters in all purity.” (I Timothy 5:2) In this way we must be transformed in our minds, by the purity and holiness of God’s Word, to overcome the deadly

temptation of adultery.

To those of my listeners who are currently involved in adultery, in the name of Jesus Christ I beg you to repent. To repent I mean to confess and forsake your sin, then come to Jesus for cleansing--in His way, by His blood. He promises you will find compassion with Him. This does not mean you will escape many of the consequences of your sin, but you will be able to find reconciliation with God and hopefully with your fellow man.