

## Proverbs Week #54 (5:15-20)

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*“Drink water from your own cistern and fresh water from your own well. Should your springs be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be yours alone and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be exhilarated always with her love. For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress and embrace the bosom of a foreigner?” Prov 5:15-20*

In our last few lessons from Proverbs I finished the teaching with the picture of two possible doors. Behind door number one was a life that is wasted; where one’s vigor and strength were given over to “the cruel one.” (Prov 5:9) Behind door number two was God’s way of escape when we are tempted in our lives to do wrong things.

If I can use this illustration one more time, I would like to suggest these two doors are two different women. Door number one is “an adulteress” or foreign woman and door number two represents a woman whose marriage is known in heaven. God sees this woman as the one that the son should not only embrace but should rejoice in, be satisfied by, and be exhilarated in. While the last few lessons in Proverbs have focused upon warning the son of dangers, this lesson is filled with those things of which God Himself approves.

The themes of these verses are filled with messages that are easier for adults to understand than children. Even we as adults may not appreciate what these verses are describing. The words of these verses do not have the same impact on our children and on us as they did on those who lived in the deserts of Israel. Very few people have any experience in making cisterns to hold water. We normally do not drink from springs of water. We can understand the differences that the quality of the water might have between a cistern and a spring but probably not based on our daily experience with drinking water.

There is one thing that I think this passage wants us to grasp. It is something that not only a godly son should embrace but something a godly daughter must also treasure. There is something precious (just like water is precious to a thirsty man in the desert) and it relates to living life in a marriage that is according to God’s design. What these verses speak about are qualities of marriage that too often are neglected. Marriage unites two individuals into a unique relationship. It requires both partners to remain faithful and maintain their focus on each other. We learn from these verses that a wise son (or daughter) will guard and protect this relationship as a matter of joy and exhilaration.

I mentioned earlier that the themes of this lesson are easier for adults to understand, but I want to focus now on what our children know. Most children when given a glass of water from a swimming pool, the tap, or from a fresh source will be able to tell the difference in taste. They are also likely to prefer one glass of water over the other. While our children may not be able to explain the difference in taste they know what they do not like. The same can be said about marriage. Our children may not be able to explain what makes a good marriage or a bad one, but given examples of a truly good one and a bad one, children know the difference.

This is where the wisdom of today’s lesson must be lived out not just spoken. If we as parents are to teach these lessons then we are going to have to seriously consider how much we are investing in our own marriages. We should be teaching our children that they should rejoice in marriage. Do they see in us good examples?

As I’ve said before, none of us can change the past. If we have made mistakes or sinned in relation to our marriages we may not be able to undo the actions, but we can seek God to renew our days. If needed, we can seek His forgiveness and pray that He would grant repentance. We all need to pray that God would create and keep our heart in such a condition that we are willing to listen to His voice and live according to His ways. As long as we have breath we can rejoice before Him and be thankful for what He has provided. If we lack wisdom we can ask of God and expect that He will provide it. May God grant us His strength to live by the wisdom He provides that we may sanctify His name in the earth and bring glory and honor to Yeshua the Messiah.