

## STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

### STUDY NUMBER 22 – PROVERBS 5:1-23

I am of the opinion that Solomon wrote Song of Solomon when he was young. It was his first marriage. It was the marriage to Shunammite, the sweet little Lebanese princess. If they would have stayed together we would have a completely different story to tell.

I also believe that Ecclesiastes was written at a time when he made some of these choices and because he made them, life became very meaningless and purposeless. He went off track in the decisions he made when there was sixteen years left in his kingdom.

I personally am of the persuasion, although there are not many who will join me, that Proverbs is written by Solomon looking back of what might have been! When we are in Proverbs 5 today it is all together fitting that because of what happened last week we would study this section and see what the bible has to say about sexual fidelity and the marital relationship.

So, that is where we are going to land today and it is going to be a lot of fun. Just to bring you up to speed.

What happened last week is we were introduced to the fact that Solomon now had one thousand women in his life, seven hundred wives, three hundred concubines.

Secondly, all of those women brought their religion with them. He pleased those women by building high places for their idols and their places of worship. These places now are places where the children of Israel are going to celebrate over on the Mount of Olives and God has basically said, "Solomon, your history." That is kind of the way the study ended. The Lord is very upset. He had given Solomon all this freedom to do this but he held to them in love.

If there is ever an area where Satan is having a hay-day today it is the realm of the sexual. So as we address that today there are a lot of things that we think about that make this study relate to our present time. But, I want you to make it relate to your self personally. I want us to be opened and understand what the text of scripture has to say.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Here we are coming to a passage of Scripture that if we understand it correctly it's Solomon teaching his sons what might have been. This is what could be the picture. Solomon could be taking information that was given to him by his father, David, when he passed on to him. Now he is giving it to Rehoboam. I can't read these 23 verses without sensing that Solomon is hurting. I can't read these verses without that Solomon is talking from personal experience and there is a lot of regret in these

verses. I mean each little phrase, if you will just get emotionally involved with the phrase, you are going to say boy, this guy really hurts. Or, he is understood too late and it is just like he is talking to us right now.

We are in a culture like this that is permissive, that's excusing, that denies, that rationalizes and we need to hear what Solomon who has been there, done that, has to say to us. That is the treasure that comes out of this study today. I hope you will understand we are dealing with some things that are really critical if our culture is going to survive.

**v. 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight.**

There are two commands in verse 1 then he tells you why he gives the two commands and it is for a reason that is given in the next verse. *Pay attention to my wisdom and listen well to my words of insight.* Why? Verse 2

**v. 2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.**

Now many of you are aware of the fact that Eugene Peterson has produced "The Message". He also has done "Psalms" and "Proverbs". In this verse Peterson says:

*Then you'll acquire a taste for good sense;  
what I tell you will keep you out of trouble.*

**v. 3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;**

There are two reasons why he wants his sons to pay attention. Now listen to what he has to say:

- 1) ***“FOR THE LIPS OF AN ADULTERESS DRIP HONEY,”*** and
- 2) ***“HER SPEECH IS SMOOTHER THAN OIL.”***

When you take those two analogies, and you say, “Sweeter than honey”, there is nothing sweeter in Israel than the honey! There is nothing smoother than olive oil, and so he is saying the adulteress is the epitome of sweetness and smoothness! That is always the way it is when you are getting ready to be disobedient. When you are getting ready to compromise, the only hook that Satan hasn’t said, is the sheer compelling attractiveness of what is being suggested or proposed, or provided. It is very sweet and it is very smooth.

You see it starts out that way but verse 4 you have the contrast and how it ends up!

**v. 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.**

Starts out SWEET AND SMOOTH and it ends up BITTER AND SHARP! Want to talk to the Prodigal Son about that, he can tell you the same thing. Started out feasting with everybody and spending the inheritance he had

having a big time and before you know it, he is slopping hogs and starting to think about home and what he has left behind! Peterson in the “The Message” does a great job on this verse:

*But it won't be long before she's gravel in your mouth, a pain in your gut, a wound in your heart.*

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There is so much of this stuff going around about recreational and casual sex. I mean you can celebrate your sexuality with anyone you want and then go away and forget it and you will never be the same, and you are not affected. The Bible doesn't say it, it is totally contrary. I want you to hear first, C.S. LEWIS address it.

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

The truth is that wherever a man lies with a woman, there, whether they like it or not, a transcendental relation is set up between them which must be eternally enjoyed or eternally endured.

C. S. LEWIS

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1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but

he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

This business affects you in four areas.

SPIRITUALLY EMOTIONALLY MENTALLY and PHYSICALLY

Now, if we had such a relationship tonight that we can talk about sexual infidelity I could make a statement that everyone of you would immediately agree with. All you have to do is to think back of your sexual life and your sexual relationship and immediately faces come to your mind of the first, second, third or how many of those people are there because you have given them something and they have given you something.

And it has established a relationship that you can't blot out of your mind and you never will.

That's all this is saying. It's saying that you don't violate the teaching of the word of God with regard to sexual personal matters without suffering severe consequences from such.

Solomon is coming back at this and he is saying, "Look this is the way it might have been, but this is the way it is"!

**v. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.**

Now, who would want to, in their right mind, want to get into all of that stuff? Because it is “SWEET AND SMOOTH”! But then you look at it, it is “BITTER AS GALL, SHARP AS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD and HER FEET GO DOWN TO DEATH and HER STEPS LEAD STRAIGHT TO THE GRAVE. Your saying, man, you have to be crazy to want to be involved in something like that.

Romans 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

The key to victory in this is to clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ every day you get up. You say, “Lord Jesus I am a suit of clothes, put me on and don’t think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

That is Proverbs 4:23;

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Here are the three AAA’s to get you back on track again.

First of all and the biggest “A” of all is ACCOUNTABILITY. You cannot handle sexual infidelity by yourself. There has to be someplace or someone that you can truly acknowledge that you are having to struggle. You need to be accountable to somebody. I don’t know why guys have such an easy time being accountable to other guys with regard to physical fitness.

We do that and the girls do it too. You get up and go together because you wouldn't if you did it by yourself. Why is it that we can't be genuine and transparent enough to allow our sexuality in something where we are accountable?

With accountability, we can discuss those things and know that we are not weird and we are not sweeping it under the rug and keeping it something secret so that God can't bless us.

The second A, is ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. We are not weird. We all have the same struggles. It seems like in a Christian community we just go hush, hush and we don't talk about our sexuality and the struggle we have to stay on track.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

The third A is ACCEPTANCE. Because I accept the fact that I am this way with JOB.

Job 31:1 I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

The best thing we can do is to talk about some of these things.



**v. 6 She gives no thought to the way of life, her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.**

**The reason he is asking for this:**

**STATEMENT #1**

***“SHE GIVES NO THOUGHT TO THE WAY OF LIFE.”***

**STATEMENT #2**

***“HER PATHS ARE CROOKED.”***

**By CONTRAST:**

***“BUT SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT.”***

**The New Living Translation says:**

***She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't even realize where it leads.***

**Eugene H. Peterson paraphrases verse 6:**

***She hasn't a clue about Real Life,  
about who she is or where she's going.***

**Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.**

**Matthew 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**

**v. 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.**

Have you given instructions to your kids sometimes and you know it went right over their head? You come back at them and said, “*now I want you to really listen to me because this is really serious*”. I kind of get that feeling with Solomon.

It’s like I’m talking to you about something that I really messed up on. I’m talking to you about something that I am so concerned about I want you to first of all listen to me and don’t turn aside from what I say.

It’s a positive and a negative command in these next couple of verses where he just goes back and forth.

**v. 8 Keep to a path far from her, (positive), do not go near the door of her house (negative).**

Listen to me, do these things, keep your distance stay out of the neighborhood. Daniel Webster said:

**Educate your children to self-control, to the habit of holding passion and prejudice and evil tendencies subject to an upright and reasoning will, and you have done much to abolish misery from their future lives and crimes from society.**

**Daniel Webster**

**In other words, don't go near this. Back a number of years ago I was asked to help with the Life Recovery Battle. My son, who was writing the one hundred forty-five notes for 1 Samuel and in getting ready for that I also had the privilege of going to several Alcohol Anonymous Meetings. I say I got to go I didn't have to go. It was the most wonderful experience of my whole life. I actually thought I had seen invisible flesh what the Body of Christ should have looked like. People were so vulnerable and so transparent asking people to pray for them in situations, struggles they were having, hurts and pains and the love was just flowing in that room like you couldn't believe. But everyone of them said the same thing as they were talking back to each other they would say, "now listen don't go back to the old bars!" "Don't go back to the old friends!" Because if you go back to those "old haunts" all these things will come back again and the power of the temptation will grab you!**

**In essence, that is what we have got to decide. We are not going to let the news stands at the airport with all that pornographic garbage or the newsstands, bookstores and the videos and all of the other stuff influence us.**

**We need to take steps to avoid going, being, doing of submitting ourselves to those things and then being accountable to somebody about it.**

**(Faith Under Fire: Standing Strong When Satan Attacks**  
**by Steven J. Lawson)**

**The final verse of Christ's temptation concludes with a most revealing statement.**

**Luke 4:13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.**

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**He lands on the word OPPORTUNE. Are you aware that Satan knows when you are vulnerable? Are you aware that he knows just exactly when to fire the shot that is going to get us? It's a specific time; it's a specific place; it's a specific set of circumstances and the thing I love about Steve is he gives his list of six times that Satan uses opportune times in his life.**

- 1) After a spiritual victory. When you have a great spiritual victory and you are on a high.**
- 2) When you are all alone. That's the truth.**
- 3) When you are physically tired. Your wiped out, and you've had it.**

- 4) When you are having to wait on God. In your mind it should have been done yesterday.
- 5) When you are in God's house. Have you ever had that experience? It seems like everything craters. You have a fight with your wife on the way to church and then you get there and it ruins the whole spirit of things and all these other things come flooding in your mind and you don't get anything out of the sermon.
- 6) Before you start doing something great for God.

It is those kind of things that really get to you and could distract you. But, how faithful God is when you stay accountable. When you acknowledge and accept and you keep hanging in there. But Satan is picking guys off, one by one because they're in isolation.

The only guy in the Bible that handled the deal successfully in isolation is Joseph. Remember when Mrs. Potiphar, the boss' wife, wanted to have an affair with him and he is in the house all by himself. She says, "come to bed with me" and he leaves his coat and keeps his character and gets out of the house. That is the only one. When you look at all the other records, the other guys bite the dust. Samson, Solomon, David, down the line you go. I want to tell you something it's very powerful and you can't handle it by yourself.

**v. 9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel.**

**You see if you do this Solomon says you are going to do two things you don't like.**

- 1) You are going to give your best strength to others that are not going to appreciate it.**
- 2) Lest you give your years to one who's cruel.**

**Now some of the commentators think the one that is cruel is the person that precipitated the relationship or the people that are involved in it. They experience cruelty, and that's true.**

**But this says "THE ONE WHO IS CRUEL" and I take it to be Satan and I have a lot of reasons for believing that. The one who is cruel.**

**1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled, and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

**Resist steadfast.**

**2 Timothy 2:26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.**

**1 Corinthians 5:5 hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.**

**2 Corinthians 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us, For we are not unaware of his schemes.**

**2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.**

**Former Dallas Cowboy Deion Sanders wrote a book called Satan's PMS, Power, Money and Sex. How Success Almost Ruined My Life. One of the last things he says, "I tried to be on my guard at all times against the wilds of the devil, because he knows me and he knows where all my doors and windows are, but I have taken away the WELCOME MAT and JESUS is standing guard at the doors to my heart. I have a passionate hunger for the things of God, and each day I am feeding on his word."**

**I am saying "sic em Deion"! Those are the kinds of things that tell you from somebody who has been there, done that, and what he has to do to handle someone who is cruel, someone who is out to destroy you.**

**v. 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.**

Well how does that happen? Look at the prodigal son, feast on your wealth and when it is all gone your left by yourself destitute.

Just take the relationship that is creating all of this havoc in New York and New Jersey with the Governors and try to put a dollar figure on flowers, candy, gifts, cards, telephone calls, meetings, motels, hotels, exotic trips, air fare and then tack on top of that all the divorce settlements and on top of that all of the child support and you get an idea of the magnitude of the price you pay when you do the devil's work. When you get caught up in this, it is a high price and strangers feast on that which should belong to you as a person if you would have been straight in that area. That's all Solomon is saying.

Look at the next verse you just can't help but feel that he actually is telling you what it's like. Because at the end of your life and you are going to watch this next week, this is prophetic and pathetic as to what we are going to see next week.

**v. 11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.**

Peterson paraphrases this verse:

You don't want to end your life full of regrets,  
nothing but sin and bones is the way



Is there anybody else in the Bible that would verify that? Remember his dad when he had that time of spiritual repentance and brokenness and wrote Psalm 32:3-4:

Psalm 32:3-4 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

It's the tragedy of coming to old age and realize all that you have left is skin and bones.

Here is a cute story about three old guys in a nursing home:

SAY WHAT?

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were taking a walk one fine March day. One remarked to the other, "Windy, ain't it?" "No," the second man replied, "It's Thursday." And the third man chimed in, "So am I, let's have a coke."!

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

v. 12 You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!"

Here's the bottom line of living this way; verses 12, 13, and 14. We are going to jump in there for a few verses on marriage then we are going to wrap it up with another bottom line in verses 22 and 23.

Two things, “*how I hated discipline...I didn’t say NO and how my heart spurned correction*”. I didn’t listen to people who were telling me that I was doing the wrong thing.

**v. 13 I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructor.**

Basically he is saying, why didn’t I pay attention? Why didn’t I listen? Why didn’t I obey?

**v. 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly.”**

I am here at the place of complete defeat in my life. **WOW** what a statement!

**(The Seeking Heart: Volume 4: The Library of Spiritual Classics by Fenelon)**

You ask for comfort, but you do not see that you have been led to the edge of the fountain and refuse to drink.

Peace and comfort are to be found only in simple obedience. Be obedient without a lot of talk about how obedient you are. You will soon find rivers of living water flowing within you. If you believe much, you will receive much. If you believe nothing, you will receive nothing, and continue to listen only to the stories your empty imagination tells you.

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Just be OBEDIENT. Just do as HE says. Now, he has some advice.

**v. 15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.**

You need to understand how Solomon talks about the physical relationship between husband and wife. When you read the Song of Solomon and he is getting ready to consummate his marriage to Shunammite he says two things:

*I'm coming into my garden and I'm coming to drink from my fountain.*

So he uses fountains and cisterns to describe the physical experience between a man and a woman. You will notice that both of these are singular because that is the way God intended it to be. Cistern and well is one woman and one man in the physical relationship the way God intended for it to be.

**v. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?**

Should you be passing out sexual favors in the city square for just anybody who comes along? You see Martin Luther said it right:

**(The Book of Wisdom by Multnomah Books)**

**There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.**

**Martin Luther**

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**v. 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.**

**Positive – let them be yours alone;**

**Negative - never to be shared with strangers.**

**(God's Little Devotional Book for Couples by Honor Books)**

**You can never be happily married to another until you get a divorce from yourself.  
Successful marriage demands a certain death to self.  
p. 222**

**Successful marriage demands a certain death to self and selfish desire.**

**I'm going to give you a toast that you can give at the next wedding that you go to. This is a four point toast and when you're toasting the bride and the groom, if you have courage enough to say it, verses 18 and 19 are the toast you are going to give. It is Solomon's toast to marital fidelity. What a different story if he had only lived by it!**

**v. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.**

**(More Holy Humor by Carl and Rose Samra)**

A pastor received the following thank-you note from a newlywed in his congregation: “Dear Pastor: I want to thank you for performing our marriage ceremony. It was beautiful the way you brought my happiness to a conclusion.”

***Pastor Dennis R. Fakes, Lindsborg, Kansas***

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**(Don't Squat With Yer Spurs On!: A Cowboy's Guide to Life by Texas Bix Bender)**

**There's two theories to arguin' with a woman.  
Neither one works.**

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**(A Man to Match the Mountain: Overcoming the Obstacles of Life by David Roper)**

**As George MacDonald says, “Woman ought to be the dearest word to every man, next to God.”**

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That is the way God intended it to be. Here is your four point toast.

**v. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.**

So you are giving a toast to the couples, a wish for their lives together! So it is a four fold wish:

May your fountain be blessed,  
May you rejoice in the wife of your youth,  
May her breasts satisfy you always, and  
May you ever be captivated by her love.

That means “ravished”, “infatuated”, “loved” to the fullest degree and never get over the thrill of it.

Somebody said:

A modern miracle would be a golden wedding anniversary in Hollywood.

(Unknown)

From InfoSearch 3.51)

Then he asks a question:

**v. 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why**

**embrace the bosom of another man's wife?**

**This is a two point question. Why do that when you have all of this at home?**

**(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)**

**For the past twenty years you and I have been fed all day long on good solid lies about sex.**

**C.S. LEWIS**

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**Now here comes your final wrap up, bottom line.**

**v. 21 For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths.**

**That's true. You don't go in and close the door and pull the shade, God's there in the room.**

**Hebrews 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

**Jeremiah 17:10 "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."**



**You don't hide from it Solomon says. God knows all about it and he sees it.**

**God doesn't want to destroy your sexuality, God doesn't want to destroy the joy of just being thrilled to pieces but he has it between the lines of HIS WORD here and HIS WILL here and the culture and the press and the world seems to have run into the ditch, they don't care about it. It is just their own selfish satisfaction and the result of that is the next verse.**

**v. 22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.**

**v. 23 He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.**

**What a conclusion! What a bottom line! We don't want that, but it is good for us to study it so we understand the consequences of not keeping it between the line.**

**(Made Perfect in Weakness: The Amazing Things God Can Do With Failure by Gary J. Oliver)**

**It's a cliché that failure isn't a closed door but an opportunity. That's easy to say when everything is going great. But when you're in the middle of a whopper of a failure, when things have come crashing down around you, one of the statements you're least likely to make is, "WOW"! Thank You,**



**Lord, for this great opportunity. I can't believe how fortunate I am to be able to learn something like this at my age. Am I blessed or what?"**

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**In my search for God's view of failure, I discovered six key principles: 1) God knows we'll fail, 2) He allows us to fail; 3) He's with us when we fail, and if our failure involves sin He is ready to forgive, 4) He sees beyond our failure, 5) He understands the potential value of our failure; and 6) He can use our failures for good.**

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**So don't listen to the devil tonight saying its too late, its irrelevant, you can't handle the situation, God can! He can take the years that have been destroyed and He can make them new and He can give you what your heart longs for.**

**(God's Little Devotional Book for Couples; by Honor Books)**

**During the course of their twenty-four years of marriage, Tom accumulated a fortune in the natural gas business. But then, in a twenty-four-month period, he saw the fruit of his labors slip away to creditors and foreclosures. Things became so desperate at one point that in order to make the**

monthly payment on his house, he had to sell his wife Tina's engagement ring. Finally, Tom was forced out of the oil business all together. He and Tina lost everything they had.

When things looked the worst, Tom landed a promising job in another industry and slowly he began to come out of his personal and professional slump. Nearly two years later, while out to dinner, Tina saw in her husband signs of Tom's old exuberance. When he took his wife's hand in his own and said, "Tina, you are like this diamond—beautiful, exquisite, precious," she thought her heart would burst. "But where did you get the money?" she asked as he put the ring on her finger.

"You haven't known it," Tom confessed, "but for two years I've been giving plasma once a week. I saved all the money I was paid, and last week I sold my hunting gear. The only hunting I want to do from now on is hunt for ways to love you more. You are my life."

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## CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

**LESSON #1:** "The lips of a seductive woman are oh so sweet, her soft words are oh so smooth" (Proverbs 5:3 Peterson).

**LESSON #2: “But it won’t be long before she’s gravel in your mouth, a pain in your gut, a wound in your heart” (Proverbs 5:4 Peterson).**

**LESSON #3: “She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked but she knows it not” (Proverbs 5:6 NIV).**

**LESSON #4: Playing with sexual temptation is like playing with fire.**

**LESSON #5: Like Joseph, it is better to lose your coat and keep your character.**

**LESSON #6: “Keep your distance from such a woman; absolutely stay out of her neighborhood” (Proverbs 5:8 Peterson).**

**LESSON #7: Sexual sin affects us physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally.**

**LESSON #8: The testimony of this deviant lifestyle is “My life is ruined! I haven’t one blessed thing to show for my life!” (Proverbs 5:18-19 NIV).**

**LESSON #9 “May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth...may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love” (Proverbs 5:18-19 NIV).**

**LESSON #10 One of the great deterrents of sin is to be aware of two facts: “a man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths” (Proverbs 5:21 NIV).**

**LESSON #11: “The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast” (Proverbs 5:22 NIV).**

**LESSON #12: “He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly” (Proverbs 5:23 NIV).**

## **STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON**

### **STUDY NUMBER TWENTYTWO — PROVERBS 5:1-23**

#### **Notes**

5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight,  
 5:2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.  
 5:3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;  
 5:4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.  
 5:5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.  
 5:6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.  
 5:7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.  
 5:8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,  
 5:9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,  
 5:10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.  
 5:11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.  
 5:12 You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!  
 5:13 I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.  
 5:14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."  
 5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.  
 5:16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?  
 5:17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.  
 5:18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.  
 5:19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.  
 5:20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?  
 5:21 For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths.  
 5:22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.  
 5:23 He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.

## LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE

**What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?**

**LESSON #1: “The lips of a seductive woman are oh so sweet, her soft words are oh so smooth” (Proverbs 5:3 Peterson).**

**LESSON #2: “But it won’t be long before she’s gravel in your mouth, a pain in your gut, a wound in your heart” (Proverbs 5:4 Peterson).**

**LESSON #3: “She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked but she knows it not” (Proverbs 5:6 NIV).**

**LESSON #4: Playing with sexual temptation is like playing with fire.**

**LESSON #5: Like Joseph, it is better to lose your coat and keep your character.**

**LESSON #6: “Keep your distance from such a woman; absolutely stay out of her neighborhood” (Proverbs 5:8 Peterson).**

**LESSON #7: Sexual sin affects us physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally.**

**LESSON #8: The testimony of this deviant lifestyle is “My life is ruined! I haven’t one blessed thing to show for my life!” (Proverbs 5:18-19 NIV).**

**LESSON #9 “May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth...may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love” (Proverbs 5:18-19 NIV).**

**LESSON #10 One of the great deterrents of sin is to be aware of two facts: “a man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths” (Proverbs 5:21 NIV).**

**LESSON #11: “The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast” (Proverbs 5:22 NIV).**

**LESSON #12: “He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly” (Proverbs 5:23 NIV).**

## **QUESTIONS:**

**1. Read Proverbs 5:1-23 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.**

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**2. What are the two commands that are recorded in verse 1?**

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**3. How is the adulterous described in verses 3-6?**

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**4. What are the two commands that are given in verse 8?**

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**5. Outline the results of an immoral lifestyle, according to verses 9-11.**

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**6. What is Solomon's advise in verses 15 & 17?**



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**7. Outline Solomon's four wishes in verses 18 & 19.**

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**8. What two-fold reason does Solomon give for being highly motivated to a moral life, according to verse 21?**

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**9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?**

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**10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

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