

The mouth and lips have destroyed the integrity and lives of many people. They tell the story of what is in the spiritual heart of a person. If an engine is filled with trash, the exhaust will belch forth dark smoke; if an engine is clean, the exhaust cannot be seen. The deceitful mouth spews forth dishonest, cunning, fraudulent lies. Through the lips words of perversion, scheming, conniving and trickery flow. David warns Solomon to watch his mouth.

### **David's Warning to Solomon – Watch Your Eyes**

**Proverbs 4:25** Let your eyes look directly ahead, and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.

David warns Solomon to keep his eyes looking “directly ahead ... fixed straight” in a forward direction. Obviously, a person must scan the surroundings to flee dangers and that is the purpose of David's warning. He wants Solomon to be wise enough to know about the dangers of evil but not to lose sight of the goal found in wisdom and understanding. David is warning Solomon to keep his eyes pointed in the right direction instead of letting them drift to where they should not.

### **David's Warning to Solomon – Watch Your Feet**

**Proverbs 4:26** Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established. <sup>27</sup> Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.”

Seeing the goal is only part of the process; watching the feet is just as vital. Here David is warning Solomon not to visit places that are wicked and not to contract bad habits. Evil lurks all around; it can trip even the wisest person.

# The Proverbs

## Lesson 5

### *Proverbs 5*

#### ***Instruction from Solomon to Rehoboam***

**Proverbs 5:1** My son, give attention to my wisdom, incline your ear to my understanding; <sup>2</sup> That you may observe discretion, And your lips may reserve knowledge.

Solomon now moves from recounting the instructions of his father to emphasizing his own instructions. Basically, Solomon wants to express his own experiences as examples of things for Rehoboam not to do!

#### **Solomon's Warning to Rehoboam – Run from Adulteress**

**Proverbs 5:3** For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, And smoother than oil is her speech;<sup>44</sup> <sup>4</sup> But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. <sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of Sheol. <sup>6</sup> She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable, she does not know *it*. <sup>7</sup> Now then, *my* sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. <sup>8</sup> Keep your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house,<sup>45</sup>

Solomon personally knows about the lips of the adulteress. As the king's son and as the king, he has heard deceit from flattering lips that have lured him into the beehive of evil. After the momentary pleasure of the sweetness of honey is over, a bitterness replaces it and leads to sorrow and that is why he calls a sin with the adulteress a two-edged sword. The body of the adulteress is filled with poison that will lead to death and eternal damnation of the soul. Solomon warns Rehoboam and the other sons of the kingdom to stay away from women like her. If the wise leave the path and follow their evil ways, they will entice sinful thoughts and passions.

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<sup>44</sup> <sup>2</sup> Peter 2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; <sup>15</sup> forsaking the right way they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, <sup>16</sup> but he received a rebuke for his own transgression; *for* a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet. <sup>17</sup> These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. Ezekiel 20:30 "Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and play the harlot after their detestable things?"

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

<sup>45</sup> Proverbs 4:15 Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on.

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

<sup>1</sup> Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit; <sup>20</sup> do not despise prophetic utterances. <sup>21</sup> But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

### **Solomon's Warning to Rehoboam – The Loss Caused by Adulteress**

Proverbs 5:9 Lest you give your vigor to others, and your years to the cruel one; <sup>10</sup> Lest strangers be filled with your strength, and your hard-earned goods go to the house of an alien; <sup>11</sup> And you groan at your latter end, When your flesh and your body are consumed; <sup>12</sup> and you say, "How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! <sup>13</sup> "And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors! <sup>14</sup> "I was almost in utter ruin in the midst of the assembly and congregation."

The adulteress has lost her soul to evil, but the young man who is tempted loses things too. This passage refers to the robustness of life; vigor is lost as well as the true honor of respect in the community. The LORD's eyes detests the sin of adultery. For as long as you exist, that sin will scar your soul. The sin has broken homes, ending in divorce. One's hard-earned money will transfer to the hands of others. Then the realization comes that forewarning was given and rejected. Solomon knew this feeling first hand and it caused him great consternation during his reign. Things would have been different had he only listened to his father and acted accordingly.

### **Solomon's Warning to Rehoboam – Run to the Wife's Love**

Proverbs 5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, and fresh water from your own well. <sup>16</sup> Should your springs be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? <sup>17</sup> Let them be yours alone, and not for strangers with you. <sup>18</sup> Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. <sup>19</sup> As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

We can only speculate about Solomon's age at this time and the age of Rehoboam. The completed book of Proverbs is compiled after Solomon's death but surely this part of the compilation was delivered near the middle of his life when Rehoboam was old enough to understand it. His words in this passage must surely discourage the majority of Solomon's wives as he makes the case for finding happiness, blessing and rejoicing in the first wife of his youth. By the end of his life, Solomon had accumulated at least 700 wives and 300 concubines, but here he expresses the joy of the first wife and being satisfied with her and her love alone. We do not know her name.

### **Solomon's Warning to Rehoboam – The Eyes of the LORD**

Proverbs 5:20 For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress, and embrace the bosom of a foreigner? <sup>21</sup> For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He watches all his paths. <sup>46</sup> <sup>22</sup> His own iniquities will capture the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin. <sup>23</sup> He will die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.

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<sup>46</sup> Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.

<sup>2</sup> Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

Job 34:21 "For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps.

Jeremiah 16:17 " For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.

Hosea 7:2 And they do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness. Now their deeds are all around them; They are before My face.

Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.