

Listen to the Father
Proverbs 1:8-19
June 7, 2015

Introduction

I love the Bible! I love it because it is true. All the authors in it tell the truth about what has happened. The authors (and Author) do not paint beautiful, heroic pictures of the saints, rather they show us flawed human beings with weaknesses and as sinners who need the grace of God. The Bible shows us people who are real and relatable. Here in Proverbs, Solomon is speaking to his son, and in effect, he is speaking as God would speak to His children. Their advices are grounded in the lives and problems of real people. Everything Solomon says is applicable to us. Here is Solomon's first warning.

I. Father's Call (8-10)

8 *Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.*

9 *They will be a garland to grace your head
and a chain to adorn your neck.*

10 *My son, if sinners entice you,
do not give in to them.*

- Father and Mother
 - This is also the Heavenly Father speaking
 - Solomon recognizes that both parents have equal authority over children
 - This is the practical application of

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

- Both parents are responsible for teaching their children about God
- Godly teaching about life in fear of Yahweh and life in general
- They teach about the Law
 - The relationship to God
 - The relationship to others
- Listen and do not forsake your parents' instructions and teachings

Exodus 20:12 *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

- Children have responsibility to listen to the parents
- When children listen and do what God tells them (through godly parents)
 - Garland and chain
 - Garland—wreath—actually graceful crown
 - Chain—actually jewels on chain
 - Attractiveness and honor

- Idea is that obedience will result in happy life with fruitful and friendly relationships

II. Sinner's Attraction (11-14)

11 *If they say, "Come along with us;
let's lie in wait for someone's blood,
let's waylay some harmless soul;
12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
13 we will get all sorts of valuable things
and fill our houses with plunder;
14 throw in your lot with us,
and we will share a common purse"—*

- First warning of Proverbs—warning against joining a violent gang
 - The father is telling his son the reality of the world
 - He is saying that his son will face people his age that would be like this
 - Should we be shocked that Solomon's first warning is about violence?
 - No

Genesis 4:3-8 *In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. 4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." 8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*

- First murder committed at first generation from Adam and Eve
- Sinners
 - Solomon is not indicating sinners such as us all
 - Sinners here are habitual, practiced sinners
 - Violent gang
- The sinner's invitation
 - Come along side with us
 - Reverse-evangelism
 - They are trying to convince us that their actions are fun and beneficial
 - Let us kill people
 - Who would do this?
 - Very common
 - Nazi; gangs; ISIS; riots at Baltimore/Ferguson; abortion
 - Men and Women will be swift to join with those groups
 - No remorse or guilt of doing evil
 - What they do
 - Wait for someone's blood—death—murder
 - Waylay some harmless soul—lit. innocent soul
 - They will kill an innocent bystander

- Seek destruction of human life
 - They do it because it is thrilling for them
- The sinners' greed
 - Byproduct of murders (they kill for killing's sake)
 - Get valuable things and plunder
 - Get rich quickly
- The sinner's companionship
 - Promise of companionship and camaraderie
 - Come join us
 - We will share a common purse
 - Ironic because greed will overtake them sooner or later
 - Thrill of violence and pull of greed are strong

III. Sinner's Fall (15-19)

15 *my son, do not go along with them,
do not set foot on their paths;*

16 *for their feet rush into sin,
they are swift to shed blood.*

17 *How useless to spread a net
in full view of all the birds!*

18 *These men lie in wait for their own blood;
they waylay only themselves!*

19 *Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain;
it takes away the lives of those who get it.*

- Second emphasis
 - Paths
 - Picture of journey to destruction
 - The sinners are quick to jump on it
 - Rush into it and swift to do action
 - No thought for others
 - Paul quotes from **verse 16** in Romans

Romans 3:15 *Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

- Humanity in general are quick to kill
- Wantonly or accidentally
- It starts with the heart

1 John 3:15a *Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer,*

Mark 7:20-23 *He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean." 21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "*

- Consequence of sinners
 - Net
 - Solomon paints a funny picture

- Net spread in sight of birds
- Birds avoid this obvious trap
- Remember, they are dumb animals that cannot think like humans
- Sinners set the trap—for themselves
 - They do not even see the danger
 - They end up destroying themselves
 - Solomon is talking about eternal life

1 Timothy 6:9 *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.*

Proverbs 11:19b *but he who pursues evil goes to his death.*

- Biblical Examples
 - Rehoboam and his friends

1 Kings 12:6-11 *Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked. 7 They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants." 8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. 9 He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us?'" 10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter'-tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. 11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.' "*

- Haman tries to have Mordecai killed

Esther 7:9-10 *Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman's house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king." The king said, "Hang him on it!" 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.*

- Judas

Matthew 27:3-5 *When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.*

Coram Deo

Our Father warns us not to listen to the world's temptation and seductive words. We are to listen to the Father and trust in Him alone. When we do so, we will be blessed.