

Drink Water from Your Own Well

Proverbs 5

Pathway Church / February 14, 2021
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Good Morning Pathway Church!

- Wherever you may be joining us today:

In this room, over in our Ministry Center, in our parking lot for the Drive-In service, or on-line...WELCOME!

We are so glad you have joined us today as we turn our ears to God's Word.

Today, we will learn from Hebrew Poetry found in the 5th chapter in the book of Proverbs.

So please, please open a Bible to Proverbs 5.

- The title of today's message is: "Drink Water from Your Own Well"

Today is Valentine's Day!

Every February we are inundated with Red & Pink Hearts,

Cupids assaulting strangers with a bow & arrow...Flowers, Chocolates... expensive cards that say "Be My Valentine" (whatever that means!)

Valentine's Day celebrates Romance.

Romance is a GOOD THING...but it's not the ONLY THING!

God affirms singleness on the same level as marriage (see 1 Cor. 7)

Jesus, who modeled for us what it truly means to be human, was single!
All of us, young and old, will navigate and THRIVE through seasons of singleness (it's not a curse...singleness is referred to as a gift).

On the same token, we also confess that MARRIAGE IS GOOD.

God is the Creator of Romance.

Adam & Eve did not discover sex when God wasn't looking!

He created it...it was His idea.

And God has a lot to say about Romance in His Word.

So today, young and old, single and married, let us all look to Proverbs 5 that we might all CHAMPION MARRIAGE as God intended...

- Champion our own marriage.

- Champion the marriage of our friends, our family, and our neighbors.

- and that we as singles would champion our future marriage IF that is

what God has in store for us.

Listen: **there are a lot of songs about romance** being sung on iTunes, Spotify, on YouTube, on Television, on Instagram, Twitter, and in the books & magazines we read.

Everyone sings about love.

But God sings the **FIRST SONG** about romance.

God sings the **BEST SONG** about love and sex.

So let's put God's song FIRST on our Playlists...and hit repeat!

And let's evaluate every other love song we hear to see if it lines up with the song God sings about romance.

Proverbs 5 is a love song.

The proverb we examine today:

Is a father is speaking to his son about the dangers of adultery...romance **OUTSIDE** of marriage... and paints a **BEAUTIFUL** picture of what marriage **OUGHT** to be and **CAN** be.

Lets read the whole proverb once through, then we'll examine it piece by piece.

Proverbs 5 (NKJV)

¹ My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend [bow] your ear to my understanding,

² That you may preserve discretion,
And your lips may keep knowledge.

³ For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey,
And her mouth is smoother than oil;

⁴ But in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.

⁵ Her feet go down to death,
Her steps lay hold of hell.

⁶ Lest you ponder her path of life—
Her ways are unstable;
You do not know them.

⁷ Therefore hear me now, my children,
And do not depart from the words of my mouth.

⁸ Remove your way far from her,
And do not go near the door of her house,

⁹ Lest you give your honor to others,
And your years to the cruel one;

¹⁰ Lest aliens be filled with your wealth,
And your labors go to the house of a foreigner;

¹¹ And you mourn at last,
When your flesh and your body are consumed,

¹² And say: "How I have hated instruction,
And my heart despised correction!

¹³ I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers,
Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

¹⁴ I was on the verge of total ruin,
In the midst of the assembly and congregation."

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern,
And running water from your own well.

¹⁶ Should your fountains be dispersed abroad,
Streams of water in the streets?

¹⁷ Let them be only your own,
And not for strangers with you.

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice with the wife of your youth.

¹⁹ As a loving deer and a graceful doe,
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
And always be enraptured with her love.

²⁰ For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an
immoral woman,
And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

²¹ For the ways of man are before the eyes of
the Lord,
And He ponders all his paths.

²² His own iniquities entrap the wicked man,
And he is caught in the cords of his sin.

²³ He shall die for lack of instruction,
And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

OK...we have a father speaking to his son. But wait...

Is it only the men who need to guard themselves against an adulterous woman?

Is it only women who tempt men into forbidden romance?

Is a woman ever in need of the same advice?

Is this Proverbs only for married people,
or is there wisdom here for all the single ladies?

In this Proverb, we see a wonderful example of a literary feature called “CONCRETENESS”.

* In concreteness, an author uses a **specific person** and a **specific circumstance** to teach a truth that has **broad application**.

* For example: Proverbs 11:1 (NKJV)

*“Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord,
But a just weight is His delight.”*

- A **particular example** which encourages all people not to swindle but deal honestly in their workplace transactions.

It is NOT only limited to those who actually use balances and weights in their workplace! (*what if you're a mechanic?*)

It is a CONCRETE example to be used with BROAD application.

- The concrete discussion between the father and son in Proverbs 5 represents many different situations.

* this can also be a father speaking to his **daughter** and needs to be applied in an appropriate way which looks at forbidden men through the eyes of a woman.

* there are also many other sexual dangers that exist for men and women, single or married:

- *the temptations of sex before marriage; same-sex romance*
- *pornography, lust*

These behaviors are all OUTSIDE of God's intent for romance.

We are to appropriately apply this Proverb to our own situation.

Who is this “immoral woman” in verse 3?

* Among the father’s lectures in the book of Proverbs, there is one danger spoken of more than any other subject: **the immoral woman!**

* She is also referred to as:

- the wayward wife ...the seductress
- the adulteress ...the forbidden woman
- the strange woman ...the foreign woman

* By referring to this woman as “strange” or “foreign”,
...it does not mean she is a non-Israelite or a member of another nation,
...but rather carries the meaning of one who is **UNAUTHORIZED**.
...because she belongs to another man.

→ She is viewed from the vantage point of the son:
...she is foreign, strange, and unauthorized because **he is not married to her**.
...he has no business romancing her (deviation)
...sex belongs in marriage

→ She is an **OUTSIDER**.
She is **OUT OF BOUNDS!**
(is this the “song” we hear on TV and in our Music??)

* This immoral woman is the subject of about 65 verses in Proverbs
...more than any other figure including Lady Wisdom herself!

* She is introduced in Proverbs 2, she is the main topic of Proverbs 5, she makes another appearance in Proverbs 6, and again dominates the complete chapter of Proverbs 7.

→ The space devoted to this woman’s destructive powers leave little doubt that the father regarded her as **the greatest hazard to the prosperous life of a young man**.

Proverbs 5:3-6 (NKJV)

³ For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey,
And her mouth is smoother than oil;

⁴ But **in the end** she is bitter as wormwood [poison],
Sharp as a two-edged sword.

⁵ Her feet go down to death,
Her steps lay hold of hell.

⁶ Lest you ponder her path of life—
Her ways are unstable;
You do not know them.

→ She is a smooth talker...she is deceptive.

→ “**but in the end**” is only bitterness and pain.

* The father tries to persuade the son by considering NOT just the immediate pleasure but the pain that awaits him “in the end.”

- this is a foundational principle in wisdom: in the end.

- there is always an “afterwards”
Think before stepping...

- Caesarius of Arles (470-543) said it powerfully:
“The assault of passion disappears in a moment,
but the shame of the unfortunate soul abides.”

Sexual temptation, like the immoral woman, is always “speaking”

- it always promises something that it will never deliver.

* sex outside of marriage, or pornography, may appear sweet like honey

- But it is bitter

- it cuts deep

- its feet lead to the grave

The Instruction of the Father: **RUN...Run Away!**

Proverbs 5:7-14 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore hear me now, my children,
And do not depart from the words of my mouth.

⁸ **Remove your way far from her,**

And **do not go near the door of her house,**

⁹ Lest you give your **honor** to others,
And your **years** to the cruel one;

¹⁰ Lest aliens be filled with your **wealth,**

And your **labors** go to the house of a foreigner;

¹¹ And you mourn at last,

When your flesh and your body are consumed,

¹² And say: “How I have hated instruction,

And my heart despised correction!

¹³ I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers,

Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

¹⁴ **I was on the verge of total ruin,**

In the midst of the assembly and congregation.”

Adultery comes with great cost: It costs us our...

- honor - years

- wealth - labors

...all this is in view of the assembled congregation (in public view)

Let alone the pain you bring upon your spouse & family...

The urgency of the father yells at his son: *Think about what you're doing!*

NOTE: For all of us who have sinned sexually...

There IS Healing! There is Forgiveness! There is Hope!

God can take our mess...and bring about something beautiful.

This is the GOOD NEWS of God: Though our sin runs deep, God's GRACE always runs deeper!

Now, the father's instruction to his son SHIFTS in verse 15: he says **RUN... not run away...but RUN TO...YOUR OWN WIFE!**

* The father teaches his son about the JOYS of romantic faithfulness to one's spouse...within the bounds of marriage!

(we might want to turn on the AC 'cause it's about to get a little warm in here!)

(CLUE: water in these next few verses is a metaphor for sex/romantic behavior between a husband and wife)

Proverbs 5:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern,
And running water from your own well.

¹⁶ Should your fountains be dispersed abroad,
Streams of water in the streets?

¹⁷ Let them be only your own,
And not for strangers with you.

The father unashamedly calls the married son to seek fulfillment in the sexual intimacy of his own marriage.

→ Drink water from your OWN cistern (if you know what I mean!)

→ Be REFRESHED from your OWN well (if you know what I mean!)

- don't drink water from your neighbor's well...you have your own well!

- **the power of marriage is found in its EXCLUSIVITY!**

* no one else is invited to the bedroom of a wife and her husband.

* No one else will share in the delights of each other's body.

* What FREEDOM and SECURITY this brings to a husband & wife!

(out of 7 billion people...I choose you...and you alone)

God's plan provides a couple with SAFETY & PROTECTION.

The father asks the son a rhetorical question in verse 16:

→ “Should your fountains be dispersed abroad?”

→ “Streams of water in the streets?”

* The son’s wife does not belong to strangers, she belongs only to him.

* **The reverse is true:**

His body does not belong to strangers...his body belongs to his wife.

* the father appeals to his son’s **appropriate jealousy** for his wife by imagining how he would feel if his wife were to commit adultery.

...it is a crushing thought for the son.

...though painful, this line of questioning is meant by the father to embolden the son to be faithful to his own wife

JUST as he wants her to be faithful to him.

The answer (v. 17):

“Let them (waters) be only your own, and not for strangers with you.”

- This is not seen as a right of POSSESSION but rather a call to **exclusive partnership**.

The CHARGE:

Proverbs 5:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,

And **rejoice with the wife of your youth.**

¹⁹ As a loving deer and a graceful doe,

Let her breasts [body] satisfy you at all times;

And **always be enraptured with her love.**

²⁰ For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman,

And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

- * Rejoice in your own spouse!; **be enraptured** with her love; **be intoxicated**
 - **be captivated** by the love of your spouse.
 - KJV: “**be thou ravished** always with her love”
 - the word “enraptured” is most literally translated “**INTOXICATED**”
(*this is the only time in Scripture we are commanded to be intoxicated: drunk in the love of one’s spouse!*)

→ Married people:

ALL YOUR ROMANTIC ENERGY BELONGS TO YOUR SPOUSE

- * your sexual behavior is to be **limited to** and **contained within** the covenant of marriage
- * it is **NOT** to be spread around in the streets or shared with others.



Illustration: I commute on my bike, so I get my share of flat tires
- When air is contained in my inner tube...locked up in one place and sealed...my bike rolls!

- It works the way it was intended to work.

- But when my inner tube is pierced, punctured by a thorn, glass, or a nail,

the air is no longer contained in the one place it belongs.

- It spills out...and the bike does not function as designed.

→ Boundaries are good! Containment is life.

→ Romantic exclusivity in marriage is powerful and **helps a marriage ROLL!** (function the way God intended)

Sex is like FIRE: good when contained, but out of its bounds is destructive & deadly.

Let me push this inner-tube illustration one step further:



- I pulled out an inner tube from a tire that had been working perfectly for years...but I wanted to install an extra layer of thorn-blocker on the inside of the tire.

- This perfectly working inner-tube sported a few patches in various places...a few scars indicating wounds from its past.

- But those wounds had been healed...dealt with and attended to...and its functionality had been FULLY RESTORED.

If you, like so many of us, have not been faithful in your sexual past, hear this:

God can and will patch what we submit to Him.
...and His patches stick!

I have met plenty of people who have experienced God's healing and forgiveness from sexual sins and woundedness...

...and are now experiencing romance as God intends.

Let's get back to Proverbs 5:

Who is responsible for romantic faithfulness in a marriage?

* though the father in Proverbs 5 gives much description of the immoral woman, **he does not speak to her directly.**

* it is understood her ways are evil, her words deceptive, and she has NO REGARD for the sacredness of sex within marriage.

* But she is NOT the intended audience of this instruction.
- the father does not try to correct her of her evil ways.

Who does the father speak to? The father speaks to the son...

- it is the son's responsibility to avoid the forbidden woman.
- it is the daughter's responsibility to avoid the forbidden man.

* the son cannot blame the seductress for his infidelity.
- "but she seduced me!...I couldn't help myself!"

→ Whose responsibility is it to REJOICE and BE CAPTIVATED/
INTOXICATED with his wife?...**the son's!**

I choose to be captivated...intoxicated by the love of my wife.
(I don't say, "*you must intoxicate me!*")

* I reserve ALL my romantic energy for her...
All my flirting, love notes, flowers, all my winking...
All my inappropriate twerking in the living room...
Belongs to one woman: my wife.

* and my wife reserves all her romantic energy for me.
(some say, "how sad...how restrictive...how repressed")
(Nope! We're not missing out on a thing!)

* NOTE: when a husband and wife choose to rejoice in each other, are enraptured by each other's love...
They drown out the honey-laced speech of those who seek to seduce them.
- **"The best DEFENSE is a GOOD OFFENSE!"**

A closing Question and Caution:

Proverbs 5:21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord,
And He ponders all his paths.

²² His own iniquities entrap the wicked man,
And he is caught in the cords of his sin.

²³ He shall die for lack of instruction,
And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

* The father reminds his son that nothing is hidden from God's sight.

- the son might think he can get away with a little hanky-panky...
- maybe a little flirting/pornography/fantasy on the side won't hurt anyone...
- who will find out?

- TRUTH: the one who takes crooked paths will be found out.

In **Proverbs 6:27-28** (NLT), the question is posed:

²⁷ Can a man scoop a flame into his lap
and not have his clothes catch on fire?

²⁸ Can he walk on hot coals
and not blister his feet?

The answer is "no"

The forbidden woman or man is fire...if we choose to pick them up,
we will get burned.

...and your spouse gets burned.

...and your kids get burned.

Pathway Church:

1) Marriage is worth FIGHTING for.

I will fight for MY marriage.

I will fight for YOUR marriage.

And I need YOU to fight for MY MARRAGE, too.

We stand against anyone or anything that seeks to drive a wedge between husband and his wife.

We will push wives toward their husbands, and husbands towards their wives....reserving ALL our ROMANTIC energy for our spouses.

Whether married or single, we will steward our sexuality in ways that are holy and pleasing to God.

We collectively champion God's intended design for romance.

- We stand against "Hook Up" culture
- We will not be consumers of pornography.
- We will, by the strength of the Holy Spirit within us, we will reserve sex for marriage.

We will not mock the Lord by disregarding His beautiful design and boundaries for romantic behavior.

2) Marriage is worth WAITING for.

- Do you want God's Best for Your Love Life?
- It will take Patience, Trust, & Discipline.

3) Marriage is worth HEALING for...

- Let us bring our sins and our wounds to God...
- that He might patch us, restore us, and lead us toward His best for our love life.

May we rejoice in our spouses,

And be ever captivated...ever intoxicated...ever ravished by their love!

PRAYER

(SAY ONLY IF WE HAVE PRAYER PEOPLE) - We have a prayer team coming to the front to pray with you for any need or opportunity in your life. Your greatest need is Jesus. They would be happy to show you how to be saved today

1. Get Connected-

- If you'd like to find out more about our church or find out more about our various ministries, please fill out a Get Connected card by **texting "GET CONNECTED" to 75787.**

2. Starting Point – February 21 & 28 – 9:30am – 10:30am

- Starting Point is a two-session interactive experience specifically designed to give you quick on-ramps to the people and ministries at Pathway Church.
- You'll meet several Pastors and Directors, and staff members and leaders from our church family, eager to get to know you.
- Join us **9:30am-10:30am Sunday Feb. 21 & 28** to get connected.
- Text "**startingpathway**" to 75787 to register or stop by The Hub.

3. Volunteer Opportunities – Kids' Department

- We recently started two new ministries for children – PW45 for 4th and 5th graders and Bobblers for infants and toddlers.
- We have had over 100 children attend these midweek ministries in just these last two weeks. That's on top of our other midweek and weekend programs.
- With our increased ministries and increased numbers in the kids' programs, we really need volunteers.
- We have opportunities for volunteers to work with our kids during the week, as well as Sundays.
- Please help us teach these young people about God!
- If you would like to help with our ministries in the Kids' Department please stop by the tables in the lobby **OR** email hello@pathwaychurch.life and let us know you are interested in volunteering.

4. Offering -

- We could not continue our ministries without you.

- Thank you for your faithful giving which allows us to do events like our Night to Shine Drive Thru for our friends with special needs, to start new ministries like PW45 and Bobblers, and to continue all our other ministries.
- If you'd like to give an offering or tithe today you can:
 - Give online by going to our website PathwayChurch.life **OR**
 - Text "GIVE NOW" to 75787 **OR**
 - Mail in your offering.
- **OR, if you're onsite** you can drop off your offering in the lobby in our offering boxes.

5. *Special Valentine's Treat*

- As you leave here today, we have a little special treat to share with you in honor of Valentine's Day.
- Your life may be full of love and special surprises today, or you may find this day a bit sad and disappointing.
- We want you to take this little treat (show heart candy) as a symbol to recognize you are loved by the Pathway Family, but more importantly you are loved by God. 1 John 4:10 says *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us.*

5. *"...Great God..."*

- Thank you so much for joining us today.
- Don't forget as you go through your week that you have a GREAT GOD.

He is with you every step that you take and the joy of the Lord is your strength...**AND HE LOVES YOU VERY MUCH.**