

The Spider & The Fly
Text: Proverbs 7:1-27

Introduction

An ancient fable talks about the cunning spider's lure of an unsuspecting fly. The fly zooms closer to the enticing web, and the spider beckons with her "Welcome to my web." She finally coaxes him to make a landing, and the fly suddenly discovers that he is fatally ensnared. In this chapter, Solomon observes such a snare being set, baited and sprung. Only the participants are a deceitful woman and an unwise (and unsuspecting) young man.

It is interesting to note that this event is a real event that takes place in Solomon's kingdom. The practice of harlotry was forbidden by God in the Law (Deut. 22:21; 23:17-18). Yet, Solomon seems to permit its practice, by observing it without attempting to stop it. This shows us that Solomon's moral decline had already begun. John Phillips points out, "*Solomon's morality had already degenerated into a mere philosophy. The psychology of the case interested him. He was little concerned with the sin.*"

However, we see (as in the prophet Jonah) that God still uses imperfect people to communicate His perfect Word. Here, Solomon attempts to help his son one more time, in the matter of morality. Solomon is exhorting Rehoboam ("*My son*"). Rehoboam proves himself to be a fool, despite his father's best attempts to impart wisdom to him. Notice...

I. The _____ to a Fool (vv. 1-5).

The instruction in this chapter would serve to prevent many heartbreaks, diseases and deaths. However, the instruction must be heeded. Solomon's instruction is the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God.

A. Be in _____ with the Word (vv. 1-3).

1. The _____ of your eye ("*apple*" = pupil of the eye).
2. Be the _____ on your finger.

B. Be _____ by the Word (vv. 4-5).

1. Be _____ by a close relative (v.4)
2. Be _____ from a bad choice (v.5).

II. The _____ of a Fool (vv. 6-21).

A. The _____ involved (vv. 7-12).

1. The _____ youth (vv. 7-9).
 - a. _____ the wrong place.
 - b. _____ the wrong time.

Life Principle #17 - _____

2. The _____ woman (vv. 10-12).

a. Her _____ (v.10). *Dressed as a* _____ (cf. Isa. 47:2-3)

—If you do not want to be thought a harlot, then you should not dress like one.

b. Her _____ (vv. 11-12).

—A lady is never loud and aggressive. However, this woman is both loud, and out roaming the streets.

B. The _____ employed (vv. 13-21).

1. _____ him (vv. 13-15).

a. _____ him physically (v.13)

b. _____ him emotionally (v.15).

2. _____ him (vv. 16-20).

a. Appealed to his _____ (vv. 16-18).

b. Anticipated his obje_____ ctions (vv. 19-20).

3. _____ him (v.21).

a. False _____ that leads to yielding.

b. Flattering _____ that leads to falling.

III. The _____ of a Fool (vv. 22-27).

A. A _____ (vv. 22-23).

1. _____.

2. _____.

B. A _____ (vv. 24-25).

1. Pay attention to the _____.

2. _____ direction to her house.

C. An _____ (vv. 26-27).

1. The _____ of her deception (v.26).

2. The _____ of her deception (v.27).