

9- Road Skills – Seduction

07/25/2010 - Jim Johnson

Proverbs 7:4-27

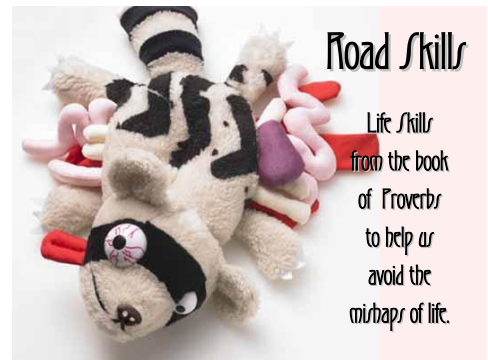
To seduce is to persuade someone to do something disloyal or disobedient by making it seem easy or exciting. The subject comes up with nagging frequency in the book of Proverbs and leaves us with this thought.

The wise person recognizes & resists _____ influences.

Cp. 7 appears to be a real life situation involving one woman and one man.

Yet, Solomon's concern is not so much one particular woman, but the seductive power that she represents.

Seduction comes to different people in different ways. Seduction does not discriminate – but we must because we are vulnerable to its lure. This is what we need to know.



A. Seduction _____ when we are in the wrong place at the wrong time. - 7:7-9

This young man is naïve, being foolish and lacking in worldly wisdom. Evidently this young man had randomly met a certain lady, but the meeting fueled a hunger to know more of her. So he left his home in the middle of the night – under the shroud of darkness, headed for her neighborhood, hoping to capture a stolen glance.

Instead of setting the lust aside, he allowed it to lead him, in the dark - to the place that would feed that lust. He set himself up for a great fall. Seduction happens when we are in the wrong place at the wrong time. We have a choice as to the whens and wheres of our lives. If we are not careful about how we manage them, we shall be seduced.

B. Seduction _____ us out. 7:10-12

The woman scanned the streets from her window, saw the young man and went out to him. She turned the corner and he saw her and he was electrified and giddy with excitement. Seduction seeks us out. We don't need to go looking for sin, sin will find us. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

C. Seduction can hide behind _____. – 7:14-15

With reckless haste, she seized him and planted a passionate kiss. It was clear now – that she wanted this young man. But what she was proposing was so absolutely wrong. Somehow she needed to make it feel right so she used the façade of religion.

She spoke of having made a peace offering that day. Unlike other offerings, this was purely voluntary. You would offer a peace offering if you happened to receive a special blessing from God. The worshipper would return home with part of the meat with which to feast. In mentioning this, she was breaking down his resistance. A devious person with a religious façade causes us to let down our defenses and embrace them and even their questionable behavior—simply because they “say” that they are Christians.

D. Seduction _____ us. - 7:15

She wanted this guy to feel like he was a god and that she was his sacrifice. She wanted him to feel like he was her ultimate desire. Verse 5 described the lady in this story as a person “*who flatters with her words.*” (29:5; 26:28) The problem with flattery is that we are predisposed to believe it. We typically have an over-inflated estimate of who and what we are. So when someone comes and confirms what we already believe – we swallow it hook, line and sinker and we succumb to seduction.

E. Seduction looks and smells _____ . – 7:16-18

She described her bed as being covered with expensive Egyptian linen. This linen was dyed so that it was a feast for the eyes. It also indicated that she was wealthy. The bed was covered with enchanting spices with fragrant and sensual aromas - also exotic and very expensive. She wanted her description to cause him to feel the fine texture of the linen on his skin and smell rich aromas. Of course, she was also right there - all painted up and pretty - beckoning him to enjoy. So it is with seduction. It looks good. It smells good and it feels good.

F. Seduction hides the _____ . - 7:19-20

With seduction, there is always an implied belief that you can get away with it. If the young man still had any misgivings, it would have been about her husband. What if her husband found out? What if he were to walk in on them? What if he was a violent man? What then? She knew this would be an issue so she neutralized it by telling him that he was a long trip and would not be back until full moon. She led the young man to believe that they could get away with this – that it would be all pleasure and no pain. Seduction has to hide the consequences, because no one would ever take the bait if they really knew the truth.

G. When seduction wins, we _____ . 7:21-27

Her flattery did the trick. Her lies blinded his good sense. He went with her and was seduced. He assumed there would be no consequences. Solomon said there would be – fierce terrible horrible consequences – perhaps an outraged husband.

In Verse 24, Solomon brings his story to a conclusion and turns it into a warning for his sons equivalent to “Do not allow yourself to be seduced, for the consequences are too terrible.”

APPLICATION

Who or what is chasing you at the moment? Is it a person? What’s their name? Is it an imagination? What is your fantasy? Is it a habit? What is its name? Take this bondage and bring it to Jesus for His cleansing.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Is there any evidence at all that you are currently being stalked by someone, or something that would seduce you?
If so what?
2. What do you now know that gives you insight into your adversary?
3. What should you do at this point to protect yourself?