

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Luke 8.

Proverbs 5:3-4 "For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,  
sharp as a two-edged sword." (ESV)

The "forbidden women," also known as the "strange woman," "the loose woman," "the immoral woman," "the adultress," is the embodiment of temptation and moral danger. Her lips are sweet, and her words are enticing, but in reality, they are as sharp as knives, ready to cut and destroy. Her words are flattering and meant to deceive, and there are always consequences to follow.

In verse 8, Solomon warns his son not to even go near the door of her house. We teach our children to look out for danger. To not play with fire, lest they get burned. Or, to be aware of the danger of sharp knives, lest they get cut.

Throughout scripture, we, as believers, are told to be aware, to look out for danger, and to not get caught up in something that is only meant to cause a distraction, disappointment or destruction.

As believers, we are warned not to be taken captive by worldly philosophy and empty deceit. That we are to be watchful for the prowling enemy who is seeking the destruction of our soul. To not practice righteousness as a way of promoting oneself. To hold fast to that which is good. To not wander from the faith, seeking after worldly idols. To be aware of false prophets in sheep's clothing.

There is a reason different translations use words like "forbidden," "strange," "loose," "immoral," and that is, to follow after, to get close enough to get burned leads to the destruction of our relationship with God and others.

Listen to God's word, and don't depart from its ways.

Happy Friday, I hope you are in church this Sunday.