

DUMB AND DUMBER: THIS IS YOUR WAY OUT

HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN: THE CHEATER'S PROMISE

PROVERBS 5, 7

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Pastor Jeff Robinson

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IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

Draws of the cheater's promise:

- Looks extremely **appealing** but ends in misery – 5:3-6

For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech 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 follow the path to Sheol;⁶ she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

- Current research confirms that sexual promiscuity is not a healthy lifestyle.

- Appeals to our **ego**: “You’re the exception!” – 7:13-15

She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him,¹⁴ “I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows;¹⁵ so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

- Promises no **consequences**: “We’ll get away with it!” – 7:16-21

I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen;¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love.¹⁹ For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey;²⁰ he took a bag of money with him; at full moon he will come home.”²¹ With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him.

Why isn't the cheater's promise worth it?

- 1) If they tempt you to cheat they're capable of cheating on you.

- 2) If they tempt you to cheat they do not have your best interest at heart (even if they think they love you) – 5:5-6

*Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol;⁶ she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, **and she does not know it.***

- 3) Ends in **regret** over squandered reputation, relationships, time, and money – 5:9-10, 22-23; 7:22-23

lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless,¹⁰ lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,¹¹ and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed,

Proverbs 5:22-23

The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.

²³ *He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.*

Proverbs 7:22-23, 26-27

All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast²³ till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life . . .²⁶ for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng.²⁷ Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

Action steps:

1) Focus on the spouse you have or are praying for God to provide – 5:15-20
Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.¹⁶ Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets?¹⁷ Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you.¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth,¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.²⁰ Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

2) Remember that God **knows** all of your ways – 5:21
For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.

3) Learn from the mistakes of others – 5:12-13
and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof!"¹³ I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.

- Think of your children. How will this affect them?

- Think of people who don't know Jesus. How will they respond?

4) Recognize you're capable of falling but Jesus is strong enough to **keep** you.