

Proverbs 5: Sexual Relationships

Review (Notes from Lesson 8, April 25, 2010)

Unraveling a Riddle:

- Step 1: Determine Parallelism
- Step 2: Identify Figures of Speech
- Step 3: Summarize the proverb using as few words as possible (less than 10)
- Step 4: Particularize the wisdom and folly
- Step 1: Determine Parallelism for Proverbs 27:21
 - Emblematic parallelism: comparing with the concept following a picture; every emblematic parallelism qualify as a riddle
 - There are two steps in solving the puzzle
 - Find the elements that correspond between the picture and the concept
 - Extract or mediate on the details of the comparison associated with these elements
- Step 2: Identify Figures of Speech
 - Simile with three elements compared
- Step 3: Whatever is true about how the crucible as it relates to silver as well as the furnace to gold is likewise true for a man and his praise
 - It refines the ore by extracting (or separates) the impurities from it; Concept of refining or purifying
 - Also, reveals or tests the value of the ore
- Step 4: How do these elements correspond to the second line that is rather strange and ambiguous, i.e., “according to his praise”? At least 4 different ideas:
 - How I am praised by others (my reputation)
 - Reveals/Tests: How others talk about a person tells you a lot about the person; having a good name or a good reputation is very important
 - Refines/Purifies: Praise can build you up and strengthen you
 - How I praise others (my gratitude)
 - Reveals/tests: May notice how hard it is to praise others honestly as we are probable more critical; but by the things he or she values and praises tells us a lot about a person
 - Refines/Purifies: It changes the one doing the praising
 - What I praise (my priorities)
 - Reveals/tests: What I praise reveals my values and priorities
 - Refines/Purifies: Your priorities will be used by God to make you or break you
 - How I react to praise (my humility)
 - Reveals/Tests: When you get a lot or very little how do you react in a positive and negative sense?
 - Refines/Purifies: When I don't get the praise I deserve and I still responds faithfully to God it builds up your humility

Class Discussion: Proverbs 5