

Theme: Woman Wisdom and Woman Folly call out to us, and we must choose which we will embrace – to our own blessing or destruction.

I. Intro – Choosing Which Suitor

- A. Common theme in literature, movies
- B. Penelope in *Odyssey*; Jane Austen novels
- C. Both seem good at first; major differences
- D. Proverbs young man chooses Wisdom or Folly
- E. Who are they? Who will we choose?

II. Woman Wisdom and Woman Folly

- A. Note the similarities between them
 - 1. Both are women (v1, 13)
 - 2. Both are in a house (v1, 14)
 - 3. Both offering a meal (v2, 17)
 - 4. Both are in the highest point of city (v3, 14)
 - 5. Both are calling out (v3, 15)
 - 6. Both use exact same words (v4, 16)
- B. They could not be more different!
 - 1. Wisdom worker (vv1-2), Folly lazy (14)

- 2. Wisdom offers feast (v2), Folly plain (v17 ESV)
- 3. Wisdom offers her food (v5), Folly stolen (v17)
- 4. Wisdom – repent (6); Folly – indulge (v17)
 - a. Wisdom – pleasure in rich fare
 - b. Folly – pleasure in illicit nature
 - c. Arabian proverb; Kidner quote
 - d. Illicit sexual offer (5:15-20)

III. The Choice: Which Woman?

- A. Woman wisdom lays out the choice (vv7-12)
 - 1. Wisdom must correct us – we are deformed
 - 2. Will we accept her rebuke – or embrace Folly?
- B. The serious nature of this choice
 - 1. You must choose for yourself (v12 – ESV)
 - 2. The consequences – life or death (v6, 18)
 - e. Wisdom – wife; Prov 31; Folly - adulteress
 - f. Wisdom/wife - life – 3:13-18
 - g. Folly/adulteress – death – 7:24-27 (2:16-18)

IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you hear Wisdom and Folly calling to you?
 - 1. Both are calling out to each of us
 - 2. They reach out especially to the young
- B. Do you recognize the allure of Woman Folly?
 - 1. She is an impostor – looking like wisdom/life
 - 2. She appeals to our fallen nature
 - 3. Her end is death – not life
- C. Which woman are we choosing?
 - 1. Are we giving in to the false allure of Folly?
 - 2. Do we accept the rebuke of Woman Wisdom?
- D. Do you see the feast prepared for us?
 - 1. Woman wisdom points to Christ
 - 2. Do we want the false food of world, or True Feast?
 - 3. We have the great feast prepared for us
 - 4. Proverbs 9:5 – Come to the Table - Communion

Two Women, Two Ways, Two Destinies

Proverbs 9:1-18
October 15, 2006
Communion
Numbers 6

“Everything forbidden is sweet” – Arabic proverb

Eve had to be convinced that the sweetness would survive the stealing; we have fallen far enough to be persuaded that it depends on it. Derek Kidner, *Proverbs*, 84

15 Drink **water** from your own **cistern**, **running water** from your own **well**. 16 Should your **springs** overflow in the streets, your **streams of water** in the public squares? 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18 May your **fountain** be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. 20 **Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?**

Proverbs 5:15-20

13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, 14 for she is more **profitable** than silver and yields **better returns** than gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 **Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.** 17 **Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.** 18 **She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.**

Proverbs 3:13-18

24 Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. 25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her **paths**. 26 Many are the victims she has brought down; **her slain are a mighty throng.** 27 **Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.**

Proverbs 7:24-27