

Providence Presbyterian Church

September, 2008 – Trish Luber

FLESH OF MY FLESH

Lesson One – The Wise Woman Builds Her House

Introduction: What is “World-Think?”

Thinking that is current, popular and man-centered. It is promoted by TV, movies and even the opinions of friends and family members.

World –think is focused on the self and on feelings and not on objective truth. The world tells us that the purpose of life is to be happy, fulfilled, to be having fun.

The first question in the Shorter Catechism is this:

“What is the chief end of man?” and the answer is “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever. The second question is this – “What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?” Answer – “The word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the **only rule** to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.”

Here are some radical thoughts:

First of all, your temporal happiness is not the purpose of life. And second real joy only comes from obedience to the sovereign God of the universe.

A few remarks on being single before I start on marriage –

Erroneous ideas about being single and about why you are still single:

God is waiting for you to be more spiritually mature before He gives you a husband. (A husband is not a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, married and single – we are all continuing to grow and to be sanctified all our lives)

God is waiting for you to be completely content with being single before He gives you a husband. (see above, plus it’s OK to continue to long for a husband even if you are single the rest of your life, plus Christian contentment is one of the things we ALL continue to need, there are plenty of ways to be married and discontent.)

Marriage is not for everyone – nowhere in scripture does it say that you must marry at all, and there are some really poor reasons for getting married: (among them)

Because all your friends are getting married. Because of your age. To get away from your parents. Because you are madly in love and willing to overlook his not being a believer. Think long and take godly advice before making this step.

As in anything else you do, the word of God is the only rule to direct you – before and after marriage. We live in a culture that is actively hostile to Biblical values – particularly as they relate to love, marriage and dating relationships.

The passage we are particularly looking at today addresses building up and tearing down of the home.

Proverbs 14:1 “The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.”

Since the primary passage for our lesson today contrasts the wise woman and the foolish woman, let’s first examine scripture on the subject of wisdom and foolishness –

Proverbs 9 also contrasts wisdom and foolishness using the metaphor of two women. Wisdom and folly both call out to passers by to come into their houses.

Wisdom says: “leave your simple ways and live, and walk in the way of insight....the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...by me will your days be multiplied and years ...added to your life. “

Folly is portrayed as “loud, seductive and knows nothing, she says ‘stolen water is sweet...but he does not know that the dead are there and that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.”

What are we told here about wisdom and folly – what do they mean and what are the end results?

Psalms 14 and 53 both tell us that the fool has said in his heart that there is no God. So, what is Proverbs 14:1 then, telling us about house building and house tearing down? First of all, wisdom means faith applied in our lives, and secondly there is personal involvement. Building and tearing down are both done with her own hands.

The world tells you that the most important thing in marriage is to FIND the right person. Scripture says almost nothing about this, except that he must be truly a believer. But it says a lot about BEING and continuing to be a godly wife.

House building is making and building daily a home for your husband and family. Let’s look at Proverbs 24:3 & 4 for a beautiful picture of this –

“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.” Take a minute to examine this passage.

A Christian marriage is to be within the covenant community as is all of the Christian life. Let’s examine 2 passages:

I Timothy 1:14 & 15 “The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” How do you think this should affect your marriage?

James 2:8 “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.” Who is a wife’s closest neighbor? How does this apply to marriage?

Your own growth in selflessness and a true commitment to building up your home are essential components in a marriage.

Pay attention to your marriage, make it a higher priority than your women friends, your job or other ministries, even your children and parents. Recognize him as an individual. Don’t join in on lumping all men together. God has deliberately and specifically ordained this man to be your husband. As you respect and revere him, you respect and revere God and His sovereignty and wisdom through the husband He has given you.

Tearing down can look like a lot of things: a house can be torn down with a hammer, as in constant criticism and expressions of discontent. Let’s look at several passages here:

Proverbs 27:15

Proverbs 17:1

Proverbs 21:9

Proverbs 21:19

What is each of these saying?

A house can also fall down eventually from inattention.

Your marriage is not a separate thing from your Christian walk. It is a daily ministry. Your husband is a fellow believer, he is your nearest neighbor. The world should be able to recognize you as a believer by the way you treat him and by the way you talk about him.

