

Wisdom 101: Proverbs

Lesson #9 – 7 Deadly Sins, Part 1

The common list of “7 Deadly Sins” is as follows: Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Envy, and Pride. While we know all those things are sinful, here is the list Proverbs gives us -

“There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.” – Proverbs 6:16-19

Haughty Eyes

8:13 – “I hate pride, arrogance, evil behavior, and twisted speech.” (God’s Word)

11:2 – “Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.” (New Living Translation)

13:10 – “Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.” (New Living Translation)

15:25 – “The Lord will tear down the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.” (New American Standard)

16:19 – “Better to be humble with lowly people than to share stolen goods with arrogant people.” (God’s Word)

28:25 – “An arrogant man stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will prosper.” (New American Standard)

29:23 – “Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.” (New Living Translation)

Can you think of any current examples of well-known figures who have learned the lesson of Proverbs 11:2? How did Satan appeal to pride in Genesis 3?

Lying Tongue

The Day America Told the Truth revealed that Americans lie...a lot. Here are a few figures:

- 91% of those surveyed lie routinely about trivial matters.
- 36% lie about important matters.
- 86% lie regularly to parents.
- 75% lie to friends, 76% lie to siblings, and 69% lie to spouses

12:19 – “The word of truth lasts forever, but lies last only a moment.” (God’s Word)

16:28, 30 – “A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends. Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.” (English Standard)

19:5, 22 – “A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape. Loyalty makes a person attractive. It is better to be poor than dishonest.” (New Living Translation)

30:6 – “Do not add to His (God’s) words, or he will reprimand you, and you will be found to be a liar. (God’s Word)

What makes dishonesty such a difficult temptation to overcome? What motivates us to lie? What kind of people does 1 John 1:8-10 say are liars?

“This morning I woke up. I went into the bathroom to brush my teeth and an amazing thing happened. I took the tube of toothpaste, squeezed it, and do you know what came out? Toothpaste. I kid you not. It wasn’t mashed potatoes. It wasn’t Jello. It wasn’t scented topical muscle rub. Just white, minty toothpaste. God knows that when I put Him first in my life, the first thing that will come out of my life when I am put under pressure will be His love. When my life has been filled with the love, peace, longsuffering, patience, and kindness of God, then when I am squeezed out by people, circumstances, challenges, troubles, and problems, the Lord knows that out of my life and out of your life will come expressions of His love and His grace.” – Allen Webster

Hands That Shed Innocent Blood

This one seems obvious – of course taking someone’s life is wrong. Yet, the Proverbs are clear that even actions as horrific as murder have their root in what we think and what we hold in our heart. As we read these, let’s reflect on what we have within ourselves.

18:21 – “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love to talk will have to eat their own words.” (God’s Word)

19:11 – “A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.” (New American Standard)

23:7 – “For as he thinks within himself, so he is...” (New American Standard)

What are some reasons that some people in the Bible murdered others? Are there any that surprise us when we think about the rest of that person’s life?

Matthew 5:21-22 reminds us that Jesus’ standard extends beyond physical action to our inner lives. How should that change our perspective?

Heart That Devises Wicked Schemes

Since our actions begin in our heart, it is serious when we plan to do evil in our hearts. As we read these, let’s think about how we can control the thoughts of our heart and refuse to give power to ungodly thoughts and plans.

4:23 – “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” (New Living Translation)

6:12-15, 25 – “A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment, he will be broken beyond healing...Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;” (English Standard Version)

12:20 – “Deceit is in the heart of those who plan evil, but joy belongs to those who advise peace.” (God’s Word)

25:28 – “Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.” (New American Standard)

Read Psalm 21:11, 38:12, 140:1-6, and think about the deceit of David’s enemies who planned against him. If you were in David’s place, how would you be tempted to respond? According to Psalm 38:13-15, how did David respond?

What seemingly innocent desires can turn into deceitful plans in our hearts if we aren’t careful? How can we guard against that happening?