

## A BRAVE NEW WORLD – Sermon Study

### Part 4: “Sex and Drugs and Rock ‘n Roll”

#### BIG IDEA

We are not called to change the world’s ways, but we are called to leave behind lesser things and focus ourselves on God and His ways.

#### MAIN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:7 (NIV) - *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

#### ICEBREAKER

**What is your favourite old rock and roll song?**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

#### SETTLING FOR LESS

Proverbs 5:1–14 paints a word picture of a man who is being tempted to settle for less in terms of sexual immorality.

- <sup>1</sup> My son, pay attention to my wisdom,  
turn your ear to my words of insight,*
- <sup>2</sup> that you may maintain discretion  
and your lips may preserve knowledge.*
- <sup>3</sup> For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey,  
and her speech is smoother than oil;*
- <sup>4</sup> but in the end she is bitter as gall,  
sharp as a double-edged sword.*
- <sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death;  
her steps lead straight to the grave.*
- <sup>6</sup> She gives no thought to the way of life;  
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.*
- <sup>7</sup> Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
do not turn aside from what I say.*
- <sup>8</sup> Keep to a path far from her,  
do not go near the door of her house,*
- <sup>9</sup> lest you lose your honor to others  
and your dignity<sup>[a]</sup> to one who is cruel,*
- <sup>10</sup> lest strangers feast on your wealth*

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*and your toil enrich the house of another.*

<sup>11</sup> *At the end of your life you will groan,  
when your flesh and body are spent.*

<sup>12</sup> *You will say, “How I hated discipline!  
How my heart spurned correction!*

<sup>13</sup> *I would not obey my teachers  
or turn my ear to my instructors.*

<sup>14</sup> *And I was soon in serious trouble  
in the assembly of God’s people.” (NIV)*

**1. What guidance does this section give us about how to avoid sexual immorality?**

**2. According to verses 12–13, what should the young man have done in order to follow that guidance?**

Proverbs 5:15, 18–19 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> *Drink water from your own cistern,  
running water from your own well.”*

<sup>18</sup> *May your fountain be blessed,  
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.*

<sup>19</sup> *A loving doe, a graceful deer—  
may her breasts satisfy you always;  
may you ever be intoxicated with her love.*

**3. What are the benefits of “drinking water from your own well” (marital sex)?**

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Proverbs 5:20–23 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> *Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man’s wife?*

*Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?*

<sup>21</sup> *For your ways are in full view of the Lord,  
and he examines all your paths.*

<sup>22</sup> *The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them;  
the cords of their sins hold them fast.*

<sup>23</sup> *For lack of discipline they will die,  
led astray by their own great folly.*

#### 4. What are the consequences of non-marital sex?

WHAT YOU WANT MOST INSTEAD OF WHAT YOU WANT NOW

#### 5. Why are we tempted to settle for “what we want now” rather than what is ultimately the better way?

Numbers 14:2-4 (NIV) says, “All the Israelites grumbled against Moses . . . ‘If only we had died in Egypt! . . . We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.’” The Israelites were giving up on their dream. They had been rescued after 400 years of slavery but then wanted to go back because they were being delayed. Like the Israelites, some people would rather live in slavery than face the fear of freedom.

#### 6. What is an example of where you have seen this kind of fear in your life or in the lives of people around you? (e.g. trusting God for a new job, waiting to find a spouse, etc.)

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All through the Bible we see people who were tempted to settle for less because they felt inadequate. However, when they trusted who God was and how they fit into His plan, everything changed.

- [Judges 6:1-12](#) - Gideon thought he was the weakest and the least, but God saw him as a mighty warrior
- [Exodus 4](#) – Moses did not think he could speak, but God told him He would put words in his mouth
- [John 21:15-23](#) – Peter thought his failure was fatal, but Jesus reaffirmed his call

#### 7. How does knowing our connection to God and His purposes help us to wait for the better rather than settling for “what we want now”?

#### 8. How can we remind ourselves of our worth in God’s eyes? Think of practical ways that have worked for you.

### CLOSING

Over the last few weeks we have discussed various aspects of living “a better way”—empathy rather than offense, overcoming evil with good by loving our enemies, being transformed instead of conforming, and not settling less but focusing on what we want most. What we have discovered is that, in order to live a better way, we need to be connected to the Source.

*Matthew 7:7 (NIV) - Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

#### 9. The above verse highlights for us three ways of engaging with the source: (1) verbal (ask God), (2) mental (setting priorities and settling your heart) and (3) physical (taking action, service). **Give examples of how you have or can connect with God in each of these ways.**

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ACTIVATION

Jeremiah 29:12–13 (NIV) - *Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

**Pray for each other, that we would all be whole-hearted in our pursuit of God and living a better way.**