

“I saw some naive young men, and one in particular who lacked common sense.” Proverbs 7:7 NLT

[lectio] // PROVERBS 7:6-27

There is SO much in this chapter and the author baits us in with this statement, “I was looking out my window when I saw...” I want to ask how many folks are people watchers? I am so curious about people, their behaviors, their patterns, their ways. I watch the old, the babies, the sexy, the ugly, the weathered, the sophisticated and the thug. I LOVE watching people! So when he writes about looking out his window, I’m like, yep, I’m right there with you. He sees some naive, young men. How does he know, how do WE know when judge young men as naive? Because of their ways! They just act stupid! Yeah, it could be fun or silly, mischievous or manipulative but they don’t know how badly their behaviors stick out. They may not BE stupid, but with a few friends around they take on the qualities of stupid. The writer zooms in on one and writes, “one in particular.” What was so overwhelming lacking in his one that wasn’t so prominent in the others. I’d guess they all lacked common sense, but this one was visually more obvious. What were the clues? Was he tall and lanky, short and fat, round face wide eyed, tiny head with his mouth gaping open. Was he dragging his feet, watching a bird or bug and ran into a tree. What was it? The naive, the simple, those who lack common sense aren’t usually aware that they wear a huge sign that says, “I’m not with stupid, I am stupid.” The common senseless of the situation writes the narrative to this story before it even happens. There is a woman of ill repute on the block. Oh, the writer’s “window” just “happens” to be in proximity of the only pleasure house on the street. Can the writer hear hear the conversation? Or, does the writer know, from experience (projecting) that he “knows” exactly how she sounds, what she says and what the naive boy feels as she lures him. There’s nothing like a warning from someone who’s “been there and done that.” Maybe this wasn’t a real observation at all. Maybe this is a way to tell his story without repercussions of his actions. You know the “I’ve got a friend...” angle. Either way, this chapter is a detailed, erotic story of what? Warning? Confession? Inevitability? Is “naive” a weird euphemism for “horny?” What pre-teen, teen, young adult, adulting male isn’t inserting themselves INTO this story and hoping that his outcome with not be a “bed of death?” As a fourteen year old, if I’d known of this story, I would have considered this young man lucky! - not damned, condemned or naive! As I read this story as a follower of Christ I felt torn. Of course I read it as a warning, but I also felt conflicted with this question, “how can I experience the pleasure of sex without the consequences of the death bed ending?” The writer of Proverbs offers NO acceptable solutions to this dilemma! He only writes, “Don’t let your hearts stray away toward her. Don’t wander down her wayward path.” Really, that’s his advice, “don’t FOLLOW.” That’s like asking water not to run downhill or don’t hit the ground AFTER you’ve fallen out of the tree. Don’t follow? Yes, that diminishes the chances of being trapped on the death bed after a one pleased night of sex, but it does not help with the age-old question, “what do I do with the TENSION of sexual desire?” Tension isn’t even the right word, OBSESSION is better. Every male goes through a spock-like experience of ponfar. Spock (Star Trek) went through a vulcan, right-of-passage called pon farr (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pon_farr), where the universe’s most logical, intelligent would be reduced to uncontrollable, unbridled sexual urges that would drive them to temporary insanity until it passed. It was a gauntlet of torture to force the will to submit to restraint and control rather than acting out like a common, illogical beast. Testosterone is like battery acid in a man’s body and soul. It is powerful, dangerous, unpredictable and absolutely necessary. Does the writer of Proverbs teach us some weird, mythical meditation similar to the practices of pon farr? No! He just says, “walk away, ignore or run.” Thanks Solomon or one of your ghost writers!

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root