

Four Things Too Wonderful

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Straight Paths Bible Church
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Proverbs 30:18-20 There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid. Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

- I. Four examples are given of the way of sin and sinners.
 - A. The four examples are pointing to what is said in verse 20.

Proverbs 30:20 Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

- B. The adulterous woman is what God always uses as a comparison to the idolatry and apostasy of those who are called his people.
 - C. So the application here is valid both in human and spiritual affairs.
 - D. We can learn from this in both our relationship with God and with our relationships with others.
- II. The first thing to glean from what the Word of God is saying here is that the very nature of in, and sinners is to be sneaky and hide what they are doing, and what they intend to do.
 - A. The way of an eagle in the air:
 - 1. He cannot be heard
 - 2. His trail cannot be traced
 - 3. His course cannot be predicted
 - 4. His stealth is his greatest advantage
 - 5. Only he knows what he is doing or planning to do
 - B. The way of a serpent upon a rock:
 - 1. He cannot be heard
 - 2. He cannot be traced, or tracked on a rock
 - 3. His quietness and slow movement is his greatest advantage
 - 4. His course cannot be predicted
 - 5. Only he knows what he is doing or planning to do
 - C. The way of a ship in the midst of the sea:
 - 1. No one hears except those who are on board the ship
 - 2. Except for the wake behind the ship there is no trace of its path
 - 3. No one knows that a ship has passed through after it is gone
 - 4. It's speed and its course are subject to the wind
 - D. The way of a man with a maid:
 - 1. This is speaking of a man seducing a young woman – not a man who is seeking a bride – or it would not be compared to an adulterous woman.
 - 2. He makes sure that the little glances, the flirtatious words, the flattery, the touches, are not seen or known of by anyone but her
 - 3. Everyone move he makes is hidden from everyone but her.
 - 4. What everyone else sees is a perfect gentleman with noble intentions.
 - 5. He will cover his evil intentions by portraying himself to have high morals.

6. He convinces her that he loves her with words, gifts, and attention, and she surrenders to him far too easily.
- E. So the examples given cover the air, the land, the sea, and the human heart.
 1. Everywhere we look we can see examples of how sin deceives by hiding and stealth.
- III. We should also take note that the end of the story is not spoken of in these verses.
- A. The way of an eagle in the air ends with the death and devouring of some poor creature that completely unaware of what was going on until he was suddenly in the talons of this ravenous bird of prey.
 - B. The way of a serpent upon a rock ends with a sudden, unexpected venomous bite that paralyzes the unsuspecting victim who is swallowed by the serpent, or dies from the bite.
 - C. The way of ship in the midst of the sea is often straight to the bottom of the ocean, when a storm comes out of nowhere and breaks the ship up or turns it upside down.
 - D. The way of a man with a maid, as spoken of here, ends with a sin and defilement that cannot be wiped away; and confusion that wrecks the lives of all those affected.
- IV. Such is the way of an adulterous woman...
- A. You would never suspect her.
 1. She wipes her mouth as soon as she has eaten – she does away with all the evidence as soon as she does the deed.
 2. She can carry on with her life as if everything is fine and she is a pure and faithful as the driven snow.
 3. She must be a dichotomy – act as if she is two separate persons.
 - B. Men can hardly keep from boasting of their conquests, but women do not have this characteristic.
 - C. Men must have possession and make it known that they do, but women require it to be secret.
 - D. Men, in their lust, will become careless and reckless, while women will maintain caution and guard the secrecy much more diligently.
 - E. This is the nature of sin, and sinners – to hide.
 1. It appears that women are somewhat better at hiding sin than men are.
 - F. She eats and wipes her mouth and says I have done no wickedness.

Sin is so in opposition to the voice of the human conscience that even those who love it most seek to hide it.

1. She seeks to hide her shame by pretending she has done nothing wrong.
 2. The fact that sinners deny doing the deed proves that they know it is wrong.
 3. Men love darkness rather than light, and so give evidence that there is that within them that condemns their unholy deeds – they must hide to do them, and then lie to keep them hidden.
- G. But with all her hiding and pretending and trying to tell herself that all will be well, she eventually finds herself in such a dark place that she has no hope at all.

- V. When we apply these truths to those who are known as the people of God we can see the same things played out.
- A. Apostasy begins in the hidden places, and it is accomplished through stealthy methods and actions.
 - B. It begins with the pretext of love and beauty and pleasant things.
 - C. The seduction of the people of God begins with flattery and promises of good and better things, and with the removal of moral boundaries.
 - D. The fact that it is a trap that is about to be sprung is hidden at all costs.
 - E. Those who are involved in it insist that they are pure and clean and have done no wickedness.
 - F. The end of it is death for somebody, somewhere.
 - G. The end of it is the defilement of many, and the ruination of what was a pure, and good, and holy thing.
 - H. The end of it is darkness and no hope, and nothing to offer others that have no hope.
- VI. We must apply these truths.
- A. To our own lives.
 - B. Consider them as we are involved with other people.
 - C. Remember them when living with a wife.
 - D. Remember them with our children and grandchildren.
 - E. Remember them while being a part of a church with other believers.
 - F. If we remember and consider these “ways” it will help us to understand what is going on and give wisdom to see through the hiding and sneakiness of those around us.