"DECISIONS AT THE FORK-ROADS OF LIFE"
(God's Wisdom About Decision Making)
Proverbs 9:1-18

INTRODUCTION:

***Because daily decisions have eternal consequences,**
we need to be careful about the choices we make!

I. The COMPARISON of Lady Virtue and Madam Vice

Comparison of Lady Virtue and Madam Vice

1. PROMINENCE: "Upon the highest places of the city"

   --Lady Virtue (v. 3b)
   --Madam Vice (v. 14b)

2. ENTREATY: "Turn in hither!"

   --Lady Virtue (v. 4)
   --Madam Vice (v. 16)

3. AIM: "Whoso is simple . . . that wanteth understanding"

   --Lady Virtue (v. 4)
   --Madam Vice (v. 16)

II. The CONTRAST of Lady Virtue and Madam Vice

A. LADY VIRTUE: Lasting Reward

1. Her Posture (v. 3): Standing, actively recruiting

2. Her Person (v. 1-3):

   a. Well-prepared - "builded . . . pillars"
   b. Conscientious - "killed . . . table"
   c. Gracious - "sent forth her maidens"

3. Her Plea (v. 5-10):

   a. Eternal compensation - "come . . . mingled"
   b. Life and understanding - "forsake . . . understanding"
   c. Instruction for living - "reproveth . . . learning"
   d. Basis for decision-making - "fear . . . understanding"

B. MADAM VICE: Immediate Gratification

1. Her Posture (v. 14): Sitting, smugly complacent

2. Her Person (v. 13):

   a. Restless - "clamorous"
   b. Naive - "simple"
   c. Ignorant - "knoweth nothing"

3. Her Plea (v. 17):

   a. Instant pleasure - "sweet . . . pleasant"
   b. Basis for decision-making - "stolen . . . in secret"

III. The <u>CONSEQUENCES</u> of Lady Virtue and Madam Vice

A. LADY VIRTUE (v. 11)

1. Real satisfaction - "days shall be multiplied"

2. Real life - "years . . . increased"

B. MADAM VICE (v. 18)

1. Real bitterness - "the dead are there" (her house is just a facade)

2. Real death - "in the depths of hell ("sheol")

CONCLUSION: Principles about Decision Making

1. Every decision is important.

2. Many decisions can have conflicting support and advocates in the world.

3. Your decisions both reveal your character and form it.

4. Don't make decisions based merely upon immediate results.

"Never sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate"
(Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.)

5. Don't make decisions with sensual, worldly, or selfish motives.

6. Remember, present choices will determine future consequences.

7. Make decisions based upon what is right, not what "feels good."

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