

Malachi Men Proverbs Lesson 2 Substance Abuse

Large Group: (Context of Prov 23:29-35, primary passage on alcohol)

Q – What are the three general areas of temptation?

1 Jn 2:15-16 (1194) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.

Answers:

- Lust of the flesh
- Lust of the eyes
- Boastful pride of life

Q – What should be avoided & what temptation category is in the following verses?

Prov 23:1-2 (661) When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; and put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite.

Answer: Gluttony, appetite for food Flesh

Prov 23:4-5 (661) Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

Answer: Wealth, appetite for money Pride/Eyes

Prov 23:10-11 (661) Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; for their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you.

Answer: Land, appetite for possessions Pride/Eyes

Prov 23:17-18 (662) Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day.

Answer: Coveting, appetite for things Pride/Eyes

Prov 23:20-21 (662) Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

Answer: Gluttony, appetite for food/wine Flesh

Prov 23:26-28 (662) My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. For a harlot is a deep pit, and a seductress is a narrow well. She also lies in wait as for a victim, and increases the unfaithful among men.

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Answer: Adultery, appetite for sex Flesh

Q – What is a common thread among these passages?

Answer: Appetites (lusts) that need to be controlled

Q – How common are these temptations in today’s culture? Very

Notes:

- Today’s main verses form the end of Prov 23
- The context of these verses are lusts (appetites) that need to be controlled
- God knows how men should live (He created them)
- God also knows how men can overcome sinful lusts

Small Groups: (Consequences, Causes, Put-Off, Put-On)

Q1 – What are the consequences of drunkenness? (substance abuse)?

Prov 23:29 (662) Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

Answers:

- 1st two sentences: woe & sorrow mental/emotional
- 2nd two sentences: contention/complaint social relationships
- 3rd two sentences: wounds/red eyes physical problems
- Progression: emotional to social to physical

Prov 23:33 (662) Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.

Answers:

- See strange things
- Say perverse things

Prov 23:34 (662) Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast.

Answer:

- Unsteady equilibrium, nausea
- Unsafe movement, uncontrollable surroundings

Prov 23:35a (662) They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it.

Answer:

- Unrealistic response to physical danger

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Prov 21:17 (660) He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

Answer:

- Poverty

Prov 23:19-21 (662) Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way. Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat. For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

Answer:

- Poverty & drowsiness

2 Pe 2:18-19 (1192) For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

Answer:

- Deceitful freedom becomes slavery & bondage
- Addiction is enslavement by corrupt desires (lusts)
- A man is the slave of whatever has mastered him

Q2 – What are the causes of drunkenness? (substance abuse)?

Prov 23:29-30 (662) Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

Answers:

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| • What is the answer to the questions in 23:29? | Those who linger/search |
| • What does it mean to linger in 23:30? | Stay long (too long) |
| • How does lingering add to the problem? | Drink too much |
| • What was the original intent of those who linger? | To search |
| • What was in their heart when searching? | Lust of flesh |

Isa 5:11-12 (685) Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may follow intoxicating drink; who continue until night, till wine inflames them! The harp and the strings, the tambourine and flute, and wine are in their feasts; but they do not regard the work of the Lord, nor consider the operation of His hands.

Answers:

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| • What reason is given for the woe? | They are inflamed by wine |
| • What is the heart attitude of these people? | They don't consider the Lord |

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Prov 23:20-21 (662) Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

Answers:

- What is discouraged? Association with gluttons & drinkers
- Why is it discouraged? It leads to poverty and rags

Proverbs 23:35 (662) They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?

Answers:

- What is surprising about 23:35? It is unreasonable, insane
- How does this compare with 23:29? Explains the problems
- What is the meaning of the last sentence? The drinker is addicted
- Does this help explain lingering in 23:30? They are under wine's control

Proverbs 26:11 (664) As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

Answers:

- How does this clarify Prov 23:35? The addict is a fool (not wise)

Isa 56:12 (729) "Come," one says, "I will bring wine, and we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink; tomorrow will be as today, and much more abundant."

Answers:

- How were these people like Prov 23:35? They too were addicts
- What was their heart attitude? No fear of the Lord/pursue lusts

Prov 27:22 (665) Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

Jer 5:3 (742) O Lord, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, but they have not grieved; You have consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return.

Answers:

- Why were they disciplined? To change their heart
- Does physical discipline change these people? Punishment is useless
- Does this help explain Prov 23:35? They won't repent

Ja 1:14-15 (1183) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

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Answers:

- What is the temptation progression? Lust, temptation, sin, death
- How does this describe Prov 29:35? Perfect example

Prov 20:1 (659) Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Answers:

- Why is the drunkard deceived? He is a fool
- What does an alcoholic most need? Wisdom
- Where does wisdom come from? The Lord (seek diligently Prov 2:1-7)

Summary: (causes of drunkenness)

- No fear of the Lord (don't consider the Lord)
- Ignoring wise counsel
- Love of foolishness
- Reject wisdom
- Bad associations
- Uncontrolled lust
- Addiction
- Refuse to listen to correction
- Refusal to repent

Q3 – What must be put-off to have victory over drunkenness?

2 Cor 2:11 (1131) Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Answers:

- Is it possible to understand the devil's tactics? Definitely
- If so, how is this helpful? We can anticipate and avoid his traps

Prov 23:31 (662) Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly.

Answers:

- What is the son warned not to do? Don't look on the wine
- When is he to do this? When red, sparkling, smooth
- What does this indicate about the drinker? The wine is luring him to linger
- What is the drinker's heart condition? Lustful, selfish
- How will taking this advice help? Know when you are tempted!

Titus 2:11-12 (1169) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

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Answers:

- What are believers exhorted to put-off? Ungodliness & worldly desires
- How is this similar to Prov 23:31? Wine is a worldly desire

Prov 23:19-21 (662) Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way. Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

Answers:

- What is the son warned not to do? Don't associate with drinkers
- What is the benefit of taking this advice? He won't be tempted to drink

1 Cor 15:33 (1128) Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Answers:

- How does this reinforce Prov 23:20? Heavy drinkers are bad company
- Why are they bad company? They corrupt, they tempt you to sin

Prov 20:1 (659) Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Prov 21:17 (660) He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

Prov 23:35 (662) They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?

Prov 31:3-4 (668) Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink.

Eph 5:18 (1148) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Answers:

- What is common to each verse? Loving wine/drink
- How lethal is this sin? It can be life-dominating
- Is just a little temptation ok? No, it isn't worth the risk
- What must be put-off completely? Drinking

Isa 5:12 (685) The harp and the strings, the tambourine and flute, and wine are in their feasts; but they do not regard the work of the Lord, nor consider the operation of His hands.

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Answers:

- What is their attitude toward the Lord? They ignore Him

Prov 1:22-29 (644) How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord.

Answers:

- What did these people reject & hate? Knowledge, counsel, reproof, fear/Lord
- What resulted from their rejection? Calamity without help
- What should be rejected to avoid calamity? Foolishness, scoffing
- What should a drinker reject? Foolishness, scoffing, being simple

Summary: (what does an addict need to give up (put-off))?

- Run from temptation
- Leave foolish associates
- Stop drinking
- Stop foolishness
- Stop scoffing
- Stop simple-mindedness

Q4 – What must be put-on to have victory over drunkenness?

Prov 20:1 (659) Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Prov 23:19 (662) Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way.

Answers:

- What does a drinker need most? Wisdom

Prov 23:12 (662) Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.

Answers:

- What attitude should be put-on? Be attentive to knowledge
- What habit should be developed? Godly discipline

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Prov 23:22-23 (662) Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Answers:

- What 4 things need to be acquired? Truth, wisdom, instruction, understanding

Prov 2:1-6 (645) My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Answers:

- What is the source of wisdom, knowledge & understanding? The Lord
- How are the above virtues acquired (2:1-4)? By diligent pursuit
- What is the key attitude of the seeker (2:5)? The fear of the Lord

Prov 28:13 (666) He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Answers:

- How do you find compassion with God? Confession and repentance

Jer 5:3 (742) O Lord, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, but they have not grieved; You have consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return.

Answers:

- Why were these people smitten & consumed? To correct them
- Why did they not profit from correction? They resisted like a rock
- What should they have don (put-on)? Repentance, confession

Eph 5:18 (1148) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Answers:

- What should be put-on to overcome wine? The Spirit

Jn 17:17 (1055) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Answers:

- What is one way to put-on the Spirit? Read and heed God's Word

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Eph 4:22-24 (1147) That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Answers:

- What 3 things must a believer do?
 - Lay aside the old (sinful habits/life style)
 - Have a renewed mind
 - Put on the new (godly habits/life style)
- What causes renewal? The Spirit and the Word

Summary: (things that must be put-on)

- Acquire godly discipline
- Confess & repent of sin
- Aggressively pursue wisdom & truth
- Acquire godly associates
- Accept correction
- Regular Bible study
- A fear of the Lord attitude

Homework:

- Read one chapter of Proverbs each day (e.g. chapter 15 on June 15)
- Read Prov 23:29-35 and 1 Cor 10:13 and answer the following questions:
 - Are the temptations in Prov 23:29-35 unusual?
 - How hopeless are these temptations?
 - How has God promised to help when we are tempted?
 - What is man's responsibility when tempted?
- Organize the words used to describe drunken consequences (from Prov 21:17, 23:19-21, and 23:29-35) into the following categories:
 - Mind/sleep _____
 - Emotions _____
 - Speech _____
 - Social relationships _____
 - Physical health _____
 - Finances _____
- How do you describe the threat of drinking? _____
- Memorize Titus 2:11-12 (1169) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.