

Introduction:

- Pleasure to honor our graduates this morning.
 - Highschool
 - David Antonelli - beloved of God, friend of God
 - Jordan LaRocca - to flow down. You have the mark of leadership on you
 - Victoria Peluso - Victory
 - Rayanna Reyes - Queen, visibly honorable
 - Christopher Roque - he who holds Christ in his heart. Warrior
 - Associates Degree:
 - Cassandra Roque -prophet

I. Transitioning to Kingship

- A. *"... Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." ... Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward..."* (1 Samuel 16:11-13, NKJV)
1. This was a radical transition in the life of David. One day he was watching sheep and the next day he is king of Israel. One day he is wondering what he is going to pack in his lunch and the next day he wondering how to feed a nation.
 2. Graduating is kind of like that. Your job description changes overnight and you now begin to journey toward what you are 'called' to give your self to.
 3. With transition comes fears, questions, uncertainties and also faith, adventures and possibilities!
- B. I want to encourage you as you transition to face your fears by following through with faith. Trust God to make up the difference! Here is are some fears that you may end up facing.
1. Will I be able to...?
 - a) be able to do this...
 - b) afford school...
 - c) find transportation...
 - d) make a living...
 - e) Meet your fears with faith. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."* (Proverbs 3:5,6, NLT)
 2. What about my changing world? IE. I remember in school being trained to get under our desk to prepare for a Soviet Nuclear attack. The world is changing. More rapidly than it ever has in the past. Technology and social media are making it far easier than

ever before to commit crimes. But it is the same greed, violence, depravity that is working through mankind.

- a) Terrorism
- b) Crime
- c) The financial systems of our world.

C. Facing our uncertainties by realizing the possibilities.

- 1. Uncertain about future
- 2. Uncertain about mate
- 3. Uncertain about calling. Again, I lead you to the Rock: Prov 3:5,6. As you transition meet it head on with faith! Transition to be king.

II. Train to Be King Proverbs 31

A. Proverbs 31:1-9. Interesting proverb. We have heard the passage preached for mothers day so often that we haven't really looked to see what it is about. King Lemuel is declaring the lessons that were taught to him by his mother that prepared him to be King.

- 1. His mother is giving him lessons on kingship.
- 2. He is using these lessons to raise the level of stability and manhood in his nation. Remember Proverbs 31 is not written to mothers. It is written to a nation. So the lessons with in it must be very important to the stability of his time and to ours.
- 3. The King is connecting his mothers teaching to his destiny.
- 4. "O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows" This statement anchors the king in his roots: intimacy (my son), relationship (son of my womb) oath (son of my vows)

B. What were the lessons that he most remembers or finds most important in getting out to the rest of the nation? Remember, these are lessons taught him by his mother that he is exporting to the nation to usher in stability to the land. Son, there are two things to be aware of and one to embrace if you would be king:

- 1. First: Stay away from seductive people
 - a) Beware of people who seduce (they are takers and will not add to). It is a lesson of identity. Knowing who you are. If you do not know who you are, you will look for love and acceptance in the wrong places.
 - b) These seducers prey on people who do not know who they are. They are the opposite of virtuous. This has to do with the sin of sensuality and seduction.
 - c) The thought here is to surround and associate with people of good character. They will bring strength to who you are and stability to your influence. Proc 6:32; 22:1; 7:26-27
- 2. Second: Do not guzzle alcohol. Beware of the influence of alcohol. This has to do with the sin of over-indulgence, particularly drunkenness. It is another lesson on dealing with identity theft. Alcohol affects how you see yourself and others. The more you indulge the more your identity is taken away.

- a) *It is not for kings to overindulge or to crave wine.* vs 4-5.
 - b) A Japanese proverb: "First the man takes a drink; then the drink takes a drink; then the drink takes the man."
 - c) Proverbs 20:1 Regarding to much wine *...those led astray by drink cannot be wise. "For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake; it stings like a viper."* (Proverbs 23:32, NLT)
 - d) My son, wine takes away your ability to serve the people.
 - e) vs 5 it takes away the ability to remember the law. Another way of saying this, is that it lowers inhibitions and you forget your sense of what is right and what is wrong. Why do you think people do so many stupid things while under the influence.
 - f) If you forget the law son, you will not be able to rule with justice and wisdom. You will become the seducer and your kingdom will fail.
3. Third: Do not operate in injustice. Stand for Justice and Embrace Justice
- a) vs 5 *give Justice to the oppressed.* Be their voice.
 - b) vs 8 *ensure justice for those being crushed.*
 - c) vs 9 *get justice.*
 - d) A wise king/ruler/person of influence should always rule with justice. Justice's strength is found in mercy and truth. Justice is a powerful virtue!
 - (1) Justice in this passage has to do with taking care of weaker vessels.
 - (2) It is the foundation of God's throne. If it is the foundation of his throne it should also be of ours.
 - (a) Psalms 89:14 *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.* NKJV
 - (b) Psalms 97:2 *Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.* NKJV
 - e) A foundation is not meant to be moved. People will follow a just leader.
 - (1) Justice is not fairness! Justice finds its strength in the Truth. It is based on the truth—God's Word. Jesus in John 17:17 prayed, "Father sanctify them in truth, your word is truth."
 - (2) Fairness is based on man's value system. We call that humanism. Fairness does not look to God's word for direction it looks at a situation from the viewpoint of each person rather than from the viewpoint of God. It is based on what man 'feels' and as no moral center point or foundation to base decisions on.

III. Be Trained by the King

- A. When being trained by the King, you have to realize that He expects discipline. He expects you to live a disciplined life. Four basic disciplines that you need.

- B. First: Keep the two commands. Love God and Love others. *“Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”* (Matthew 22:37-40, NLT)
- C. Second: Love the Word. It will be the foundation of all you do.
1. Mt 7. The man who builds upon the rock of the Word will stand when storms of life come.
 2. Jer 29:11-4 *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-14, NLT)
- D. Third: Pray like crazy! Prayer is our conversation with a God who cares!
1. Jesus said this: *“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,”* (Luke 18:1, NKJV)
 2. Paul said this: *“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”* (Ephesians 6:18, NLT)
 3. Sermon on Mount has continual references to prayer. This must be important to Jesus that we pray!
- E. Fourth: Be a good steward of you!
1. Your time, David, Teach me to number my days. Ps 90:12
 2. Your resources – your money, your gifts, your body.
 3. your identity
 4. I remember hearing Kenneth Copeland telling of time he got into his plane to fly home after a meeting. He asked permission with tower to taxi to runway. He asked permission with tower to prepare for take off. He asked permission with tower to take off. He asked permission to enter a specific altitude. He asked again later to go on up to higher altitude. Then the Lord spoke to him, “I wish you were that obedient to me.”

Conclusion:

- Rev 1:6 refers to all of you this morning, if you are born again, as a Kingdom of Priest. You are royalty.
- We are called to meet all our challenges with faith.

We are called to be disciplined to love well, love the Word, prayer and be good stewards. It is hard to fail in life if you do these things.