

Introduction:

- Happy Mothers Day! We want to honor you today on this national holiday. To honor: To revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission; To reverence; to entertain the most exalted thoughts of; to adore; To dignify; to raise to distinction or notice; to elevate in rank or station; to hold in high esteem and respect.
- One young girl at a school play unknowingly honored her mother. The little girl came out to say her part in the play but when she saw the crowds she froze. In the front row her mother was almost as frantic as the little girl. The mother gestured, she moved her lips to form the words that her daughter was to speak, but it availed nothing. Finally in desperation the mother whispered the opening phrase, "I am the light of the world." Instantly the child's face relaxed. A smile appeared where there had been clouds before. And with supreme confidence the little girl began, "My mother is the light of the world." We want all you moms to feel that way this morning! You moms bring lots of light into our lives.
- Proverbs 31:1-9

I. P31 Observations

- A. First observation: King Lemuel is declaring the lessons that were taught to him by his mother that prepared him to be King. So many men have attributed their success to their mothers. George Washington, Churchill, Abe Lincoln.
 1. His mother is giving him lessons on kingship. What would you moms do differently if you were knew you were raising your children to be royalty? How would your approach to your little ones be different? Go beyond behavior modification to more in-depth development of character.
 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. Rev 1:6 and 5:10 declare that though Christ we have been made kings and priests. *“And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”* (Revelation 5:10, NKJV)
 - a) As Christian parents we must remember that we have little royal children in our midst.
 - b) As such it affects who are to be to them, what we are to teach them and how we equip them to fulfill God’s purpose for their lives.
- B. Second observation of P31: The King is connecting her teaching to his destiny. He is declaring the preparatory work of his mother in helping her son understand, reach, and keep his God given destiny.
 1. Proverbs 31 seems to be more about the woman of God, his mother, but the emphasis is on the importance of moms in the life of their children.
 2. The emphasis is on the power of a mother’s instruction in raising up kings (people who will lead and influence in the world with Godly authority).
 3. This is our destiny as children: to reign and rule with Christ here, now. By declaring these things he causes others to hear what his mom did for him and his hope is that they would do the same for their children.
- C. Third observation: Moms are important in the making of kings/royalty. vs 2
 1. The King recounts his mothers words. *“ 1. O my son, 2. O son of my womb, 3. O son of my vows,”* (Proverbs 31:2, NLT) These words are meaningful to the king!

- a) *My Son* these are words of intimacy. They call the King to his roots. Roots provide stability and an anchor point for the young man. We all want a place we call home. Home is where my roots are.
- b) *Son of my womb*. This relationship that declares you are important to me. It is a relationship that fathers are unable to provide. Something happens in the heart of a mom as she carries her child that connects them so deeply together. This is flesh of my flesh! You are sustaining and feeding and caring even before that baby is born. That child is nurtured from your breasts where it continues to feel and hear your heart beat. All of this creates a powerful intimate bond of commitment that no one else in the world can ever have. Son of my womb.
- c) *Son of my vows*. The Heb. *neder* means *vow, a sacred binding oath. It is the act of verbally consecrating ones self*. The king had been dedicated to the Lord. And she took on the responsibility to see that he was raised to be a king.
- d) Moms are important in the making of kings and priests and this is reflected in her intimacy of birth and commitment to her vows.

II. P31 Instructions

- A. 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:
 - B. First lesson: Beware of women 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.
 1. 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. They will destroy you and they will destroy your kingship. (your authority, trust worthiness, your power to influence righteously.) The same is true of daughters in dealing with men who seduce to take and not add to. 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.
 2. *“But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys himself. He will be wounded and disgraced. His shame will never be erased.”* (Proverbs 6:32–33, NLT) A good name (*identity*) is something to treasure. Proverbs 22:1 It is valuable.
 3. *“For she has been the ruin of many; many men have been her victims. Her house is the road to the grave. Her bedroom is the den of death.”* (Proverbs 7:26–27, NLT)
 4. Ie. My mom was a very good judge of character. Wise women have it. I have three of them in my life now...Kelly, Deborah, and Heather. Moms have a way of ‘smelling out a rat’.
 - C. Second Lesson: Beware of the influence of alcohol. Has to do with the sin of over-indulgence.
 1. It is a 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.
 2. *It is not for kings to overindulge or to crave wine.* vs 4-5.
 - a) A Japanese proverb: “First the man takes a drink; then the drink takes a drink; then the drink takes the man.”
 - b) 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) IE. My mom constantly told me of the dangers of drinking while growing up. I wish I has listened

sooner. But God used that to lead me to the place of emptiness quicker because she gave me that wisdom. Mom's warn your sons! Warn your daughters! Raise them to be secure in who they are.

3. My son, wine takes away your ability to serve the people.
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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.
4. Lessons on too much wine. So many want to tell themselves that it is o.k. to drink. Drinking is not a sin. You are right...but drunkenness is and no one knows where that begins.
 - a) Noah got drunk: Because he got drunk and his son Hamm saw him naked, when Noah found out he cursed his grandson Canaan. Ever heard of the Canaanites?
 - b) Lots daughters, Gen 19:32 get their father drunk and each of them sleep with him.
 - (1) Older daughter names her child Moab-Moabites
 - (2) The younger daughter names her child- Ammom - Ammonites.
 - c) Hosea 4:4 wine has robbed my people of their understanding.
 - d) Hose 4:18 wine leads to the love of shame rather than honor.
- D. Third lesson: Stand for Justice and Embrace Justice
 1. vs 5 give *Justice to the oppressed*. Be their voice.
 2. vs 8 *ensure justice for those being crushed*.
 3. vs 9 *get justice*.
 4. 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!
 - a) Justice in this passage has to do with taking care of weaker vessels.
 - b) It is the foundation of God's throne. If it is the foundation of his throne it should also be of ours.
 - (1) Psalms 89:14 *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face*. NKJV
 - (2) Psalms 97:2 *Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne*. NKJV
 5. A foundation is not meant to be moved. The wise mother built into her son the understanding of justice. People will follow a just leader.
 - a) 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."
 - b) 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.
- E. These three lessons by King Lemuel's mom are powerful. And you mothers have the ability to shape the future with them. Beware of seducers who are takers. Beware of the influence of alcohol upon your life. Embrace and stand for justice.

III. P31 Implications

- A. King Lemuel was very honoring of his mother. He was imparting her wisdom to a nation! And he was honoring who she was/is as a person. P31:10-31

1. It is a description of his mother.
 2. It is the frame work within which she taught him to find a wife of noble character. Ie. *Like a typical mom she puts this woman out of reach.* Not really...his mother is serious about her son finding the right bride for his life for his own sake and for the sake of a nation (others.)
- B. Sin has not changed. Isn't it interesting that the the message in King Lemuel's day is still the same as ours. Sex, drugs and injustice.
1. Sin has not changed through centuries just the appearance of the sinners has.
 2. The dangers are still the same today as they were then.
- C. Wise instruction is what is still needed.
1. Mom's, who you are to your children has the potential to change the world.
 2. You ability to appeal to their hearts is so much different than a dads.
 3. Do not be afraid to instruct and know that your life is your biggest black board.

Conclusion:

- Moms and grandmothers, you are the best teachers our children will ever have. I want to encourage you to purpose to teach/train character in your children. Instill godly values at every opportunity you have. Talk of them often with your children.
- Honor the moms.
- Honor all the single moms.
- Invitation to receive Christ.