

PP The Wonder Woman series: *The Mother of a King*

Part 6-Proverbs 31:1-9 (p. 552 of the Pew Bible)

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The Word of God is full of amazing women who did great things worthy of honor
Our Wonder Woman for today is no exception, and the bible doesn't even tell us her name
She's an inspiration for every biological or spiritual mother in our church, and reminds us of the
power of a mother in the family, and in the church

And we need that, because there is an active effort in our world to destroy the family unit

PP *"Ultimately, we want to destroy the three pillars of class and caste society—the family, private property, and the state."* Roxanne Dunbar

PP *"in order to raise children with equality, we must take them away from families and communally raise them."* Mary Jo Bane

PP *"We must work to destroy [marriage]... The end of the institution of marriage is a necessary condition for the liberation of women. Therefore it is important for us to encourage women to leave their husbands and not to live individually with men..."* Helen Sullinger

Godly mothers powerfully interpose themselves between their children and these evil systems
The strength of a nation's leaders have been irrefutably impacted by their mothers, good or bad

PP *"All I have ever accomplished in life I owe to my mother."* D.L. Moody

PP *"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother."* President Abraham Lincoln

Our mothers are incredibly influential in our lives, and as we turn to our passage before us today,
we are going to see how one mother leveraged that power for her son her people

"The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him" Proverbs 31:1

Who this king is no one really knows, but the majority believe he is not even a king in Israel

PP His name '**Lemuel**' means *belonging to God*, and he had a godly mother who raised him to
live a righteous and just life, but like many, he had begun to walk away from her teaching
Yet the truth she had '**taught him**' was anchored in his heart, and the bible captures it for eternity

PP She passionately underscored their relationship

PP It was Josh McDowell who said, *"Rules without relationship equals rebellion."*

A loving relationship can bear up times when correction is needed, and this mother senses it is

"What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?" Proverbs 31:2

Did you notice the progression: ***'my son...son of my womb...son of my vows'***?

This is a bit of an ancient version of, *I brought you into this world, and I can take you out of it*

She is affectionately telling him that he is her son that she dreamed of, whom she bore in her
own body for 9 months, whom she had given to God

This wonder woman's heart beats with a love for her son that is without measure

PP *"There is an ocean of love in a parent's heart, a fathomless depth of desire after the child's welfare, in the mother especially."* John Trapp

PP She wisely mothered to his heart

"What are you doing...What are you doing...What are you doing..." Proverbs 31:2

Kids don't always live the way they've been raised, and Lemuel was no exception
 Three times she asked what he was doing, and they weren't questions of a curious nature, but of
 corrective ones... *What on earth are you doing... Why are you living this way??*
 The question, repeated 3 times, was meant to pull him up short and get him to examine his heart
 King David had grown old and was about to die, when his son Adonijah decided to commit an
 inexcusable breach of protocol: he crowned himself king while his father was still alive
 The bible gives us an insight into why Adonijah did what he did

PP *"His father had never interfered with him by asking, 'Why do you behave as you do?'"*
1 Kings 1:6

Wise parents know that it is not enough to address a child's behavior, but to his or her heart
PP *"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."*

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Just like weeds cannot be dealt with until the roots are pulled up, behavior cannot be changed
 until the heart changes

Wise parenting gets to the root, the heart rather than the behavior itself

This mother aims at his heart, asking him to examine why he was behaving the way he was
 She doesn't hold back and warns him to change his ways

The strongest grief I have ever witnessed is the grief of a mother who has lost her child

The second is the grief of a mother whose living child is spiritually lost and living in sin

PP *"A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother."* **Proverbs 10:1**

PP **She strongly warned him to against sexual immorality*

"Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings." **31:3**

Our wonder woman gives it to her son straight...you have an unhealthy sexual pattern with
 women, and it needs to stop!

If you don't, she warned, you will lose your strength, and you will be destroyed

Pursuing sex in any illegitimate form gives away self-dignity, self-respect, self-control and
 forfeits peace with God, exhausting the soul of strength

PP The phrase *'destroys kings'* means rub out or erase, completely removed

Immorality can erase and rub out any good that you had done, and the result will be felt in
 whatever institution you lead...company, family, even nation

It was the sexual immorality of Solomon that brought God's judgment, leading to a split of Israel
 into two kingdoms and eventual untold deaths by Assyria and Babylon

Let me pause for a moment and explain something very important for us to understand

If we aren't careful, we're going to get from this sermon the same exact moralistic message
 preachers have been giving since the pulpits were built: avoid wine and women

And some will leave today feeling righteous and others like the worst sinners on the planet

King Lemuel's mother is not just giving her son a list of moral *Dos and Don'ts*

She is reminding him he is the king, the son of her vows, belonging to God

She begins by bringing him back to who he was, his identity if you will

And we would profit by letting her words do the same for us

Christian, you are the child of God, one He set His sights on before He created this world

He has given you a new birth, a new heart, a new family, as well as His Spirit to teach and strengthen you to live in a way worthy of His name
 He has vowed, promised an inheritance to you, and His Spirit is a down payment on it
 Lemuel's mother is the voice of wisdom, the same voice that God is speaking deeply to the heart of every Christian struggling with sin, warning and admonishing and encouraging
 We are the royal children of God, do don't waste our strength on sin, or it will lead to our ruin
 For the same reason, she moves on to a sober life of self-control

PP *She strongly cautioned him against wordliness

“It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.” Proverbs 31:4-7

The brewing of beer and fermenting of wine from dates and grapes has existed from 4000 B.C.
 In the pagan Babylonian creation story, as the gods feasted, they were “*making the sweet liquor flow through their drinking tubes*”...straws
 Lemuel's mother had seen that he lacked self-control, he was looking for happiness in a bottle
 He lacked self-control, which has proven disastrous in more leaders than can be counted
 Alcohol and drugs were problems in the ancient world just as they are in our modern one
 She warns him that they will render him ineffective in the judgment a leader must have

The Ancient Carthage people had a law that no magistrate of theirs should drink wine
 The Persians permitted their kings to be drunk one day in a year, and never any other
 In Athens, the lawyer Solon, created a law that put a prince to death for drunkenness
 The greater your responsibility, the greater your need for self-control
 It is not for the royal people of God to be out of control
 Lemuel's mother is not prohibiting drink to all people, and neither does the bible
 She tells her son that strong drink is for those who are dying, on their way to execution
 And it is for those who are poor and miserable
 But she is not contradicting the Scripture's command to avoid drunkenness,
 She isn't recommending that if you are miserable, go ahead and drown your sorrows for getting drunk only increases them
 She is sarcastically telling her son the king to not stoop to the level of a drunk
You are the king, keep your head clear, so that you can judge well for the sake of the people
**PP “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit”
 Ephesians 5:18**

PP *She boldly encourages him to live right

“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” 31:8-9

Her earlier advice to avoid spending strength on sex and beer was all leading to her admonition to not let sex and alcohol keep him from living for what really matters: those in need

A godly mother's teachings are a force for good, not just a constraint on evil
 By New Testament times, the attitude toward the poor was that it was a most despised state
 Plato tried to legislate that the poor would be banished, and if anyone attempted to beg, he would
 be driven across the border that the land would be cleansed of such low creatures
 The word '*poor*' was used in the literal sense for someone lacking material necessities
 But it came to mean someone who lacked power, was vulnerable, downtrodden had no one to
 defend them in court or speak up for them in community

PP "*All my bones shall say, 'O LORD, who is like you, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?'"* Psalm 35:10

It can hardly be overstated that the heart of God beats fiercely for the poor and downtrodden

PP "*This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.*"
 Psalm 34:6

Christian, you and I must speak up for the poor, and downtrodden!
 Lemuel's mother tells him twice, speak up, open your mouth for those who have no voice!
 Certainly, for babies in the womb who have no voice, but also for those being trafficked,
 unbelievably, right here in our own Lehigh Valley
 Regardless of your political positions, God's people must move to do what we can for the poor
 and helpless fleeing evil regimes and suffering to find help and protection in our country
 It would be unthinkable for us to close our hearts to anyone who is helpless
 Do you defend the rights of those being bullied in your schools?
 Or those being taken advantage of by their employers
 Speak up, this other says, do what is in your power to do, even at personal cost to yourself

This mother calls her son to live a life that will '*defend the rights of the poor and needy*'

Mothers, you have an incredible influence with your children
 This wonder woman stands as your witness, encouraging you on, and perhaps challenging you
 Are you living out your influence with your children?
 Hustling your kids from one activity to another, allowing a frenetic life is not wise mothering
 Making them the center of the universe will raise them to be a self-centered adult
 Helping them with their homework so they will be on the honor roll builds no character
 Are you teaching, and modeling lives of purity, self-control and helping those in need?

PP (Put all this on 1 slide) **Mothers, build the relationship with your children young or old**
Aim your words to the heart, the root of all behavior
Warn them all their lives against sexual immorality, no matter how old they are
Caution them against worldliness, against a life that lacks self-control
And encourage them to live on behalf of those who are helpless

Amen

Pray