

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
December 8, 2024 | “Tough Talk from Mama” | **Proverbs 31:1–9**

- 1) Don't give your strength to _____
(31:1–3)

- 2) Don't waste your wits on _____
(31:4–7)

- 3) Speak up for those who can't _____ for _____
(31:8–9)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 31:1–9. What are the warnings that King Lemuel's mother gives him? Is this the kind of advice that every mother would give to her son? Or are the expectations elevated because her son is a king?

In Proverbs 30:11 and 30:17, Agur warned about disrespecting one's mother. How does Lemuel listen and learn from his mother in this passage? Is there a possibility that he was defiant towards her at first? What's the purpose of the rhetorical questions in 31:2?

What does Lemuel's mother tell him to do in verses 8 and 9? What responsibility does a king have for those in his kingdom? How have kings (and other political leaders) fallen short of this throughout human history? How is Jesus going to right every wrong when he is established as king over all of us?

GET PERSONAL

King Lemuel's mother teaches her son about the dangers of illicit sex (31:1–3), intoxicating booze (31:4–7), and indifference towards the destitute (31:8–9). How do parents instruct their children on these matters when they are young? How does that change when children are grown adults? How does a church help parents in these matters?

How have you handled issues of sex, booze, and indifference towards the destitute in your life? Have you made mistakes in these areas? If so, what does repentance and forgiveness for those sins look like? And how does God's kindness and forgiveness lead you to a proper view of God's good gifts (e.g. sex, food, drink, money, family)?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read Proverbs 31:8–9, and then take a look at all the passages in Proverbs that address issues of justice for the poor (e.g. Prov 14:21, 31; 19:17; 21:13; 22:16, 29:7). How should a society care for those who are poor and needy? How can you personally help advocate for the “rights of all who are destitute?”

ADVANCED QUESTION

Interact with Proverbs 31:6–7. Some Bible commentators see this as a sarcastic comment by Lemuel's mother. Others see this as an inevitability in our world that she acknowledges (i.e. miserable people will drown their sorrows in booze). How should we interpret and apply this passage today in our churches? What about in society at large?