

# #15 Northside Natter

1 July 2020

Today I'm looking at **Proverbs 31**

This particular chapter is very instructional and claims to come from the mother of King Lemuel. There is much conjecture over who King Lemuel was, with some people thinking it was another name for Solomon, however, this cannot be proven. The name Lemuel means 'belonging to God,' and we know names had significance in bible history. It seems possible that this scenario was written by a teacher of God's Word as an instruction to those who heard it. Regardless of that, this proverb oozes Godly wisdom.

**Prov 31:3-5** *Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes, strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgement of any of the afflicted.*

Drunkness and lasciviousness must not be found in a king's house for it will tear down that kingdom. This is the same for a church of God for we are made kings and priests unto him (see Revelation 1:6). We shun strong drink and immorality for this very reason. We are those 'belonging to God' and are holy in his sight. We are to remain holy and untarnished lest we forget God's law and pervert judgement. The Lord knows and understands human nature well and his direction to the church is very clear. In order to keep the church strong, its members must remain holy.

**Prov 31:8-9** *Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.*

Those who are appointed to destruction will always prey on the dumb, the poor, and the needy. When the preyed upon need an advocate, the righteous are well placed to plead their case for them before the Lord. When their answer comes, perhaps they will consider a life in Christ. The message we carry on our lips can save them from this world and that is our commission.

The remainder of the chapter speaks of a virtuous woman, the work she does to maintain her home and family life, her kindness towards the poor and needy, and her good reputation in the community. Those who regard her highly also regard her husband because of it. This woman is a God-fearing woman who lives her life carefully and thoughtfully with the Lord's ways and her duty at the forefront of her mind. Everything she does is for the benefit of others rather than for herself. She goes above and beyond the call of duty in all she undertakes. In verse 25 we are told that she shall rejoice in time to come.

The hard work we do in our decades of strength will set us up for our twilight years. In our old age, we rest more, our labour is not as hard, and our bodies are not as strong. If we were wise, we will have made a comfortable home for ourselves that will meet the needs of these years, and if we lack anything the Lord will provide.

We can apply this concept to our walk in the Lord. Our younger, stronger years in the Lord should be filled with hard work. Rising early to learn the ways of God, speaking his message to others at every opportunity and drawing others gently to salvation. As well as this, also building ourselves up in the most Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20), and laying that solid foundation

for the years ahead. It includes supporting, or participating in, the various roles within the church structure and never saying no to your pastor when he asks of you.

In the community, we must be beyond reproach and work diligently to remain so. This is the hardest battle we will ever face but the victory is more than worth it because along the way we will save souls.

Then, in our latter years, we will find ourselves well-tempered to the things of the Lord, weak in body but strong in his ways. Our knowledge and wisdom will be always on our lips to share with those who seek it. Our spiritual house is in order and keeps us comforted and well-fed. We have nothing to fear because we have worked hard and diligently to get here. We rejoice in the Lord. Being a virtuous child of God pays great rewards both amongst the living and those who will be risen in Christ.

Labour hard in the Lord while you still have the strength and you will be that virtuous child of God. Put the things of the Lord first and the things of this world second. God will bless you mightily.