



The Mission of Motherhood Proverbs 31:1-9

There's a mission for every mother!

The mission of motherhood is to make kings and queens out of common boys and girls. King Lemuel—"One who belongs to God"—was either a moniker for Solomon, or the King of Massah (a territory outside Israel). Either way, these words are the only words directly addressed to royalty in the book of Proverbs.

These vv. tell the story that there is one person in the king's life who is unafraid to get in the king's face and *speak truth to power*. It's his mother! Every leader understands that at a certain altitude of responsibility over others, clarity, wisdom, and unfiltered information are absolute necessities. And often they are rare commodities. Who is going to enter the office of the most powerful person in the kingdom with the sole purpose of challenging him to fulfill his vocational calling? Who has the stomach to ask the supreme leader of the nation, "What are you doing?" Mom does!

1 Kings 2:19 offers a picture of the status of the Queen Mother in the ancient world, *"So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right."*

"Even great kings should bow when their mothers enter the room!" (Piper)

Your mission: Tell your children that they must give up in order to go up!

In v. 3 she insists that her son has better things to do with his time than harboring a harem of mistresses. She's calling the question: What is it that's distracting you from the core responsibilities that you know you have to accomplish—that no one else can accomplish?

In vv. 4-7, she tells her son that his mind must never be clouded. These vv. are not about blanket prohibition; rather, they are motherly wisdom which challenges those in leadership to never allow anything to impair decision-making ability. Presidential campaigns promote their candidate's ability to handle the dreaded "3 a.m." phone call. The idea is that national leadership is a 24/7 responsibility for the benefit of others!

In vv. 8-9, Lemuel's mother instructs him to speak for those who have no voice. She wants him to ensure that the rights of the destitute are not overlooked. Rather than using his royal power to step on the throats of the poor and needy, the king must speak for them. In a sense, these vv. answer the question: "How should the king use his power?" Jesus said in Luke 12:48, *"Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more"* (ESV).

Leaders who want to rise have to do more than [be willing to] take an occasional cut in pay. They have to give up their rights That's true of every leader regardless of profession. Talk to any leader, and you will find that he has made repeated sacrifices. Usually the higher that leader has climbed, the greater the sacrifice he has made. *Effective leaders sacrifice much that is good in order to dedicate themselves to what is best.* (Maxwell 2007, 298)

Solomon didn't quite live up to His mission!

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. (Nehemiah 13:26 ESV)

But Jesus did!

Only one King has been able to keep Proverbs 31:1-9—Jesus!

When asked, "What have you been doing?" Jesus answered, *"I have come to do your will, O God!"* (Hebrews 10:7 ESV)

When asked, "What have you been have you been drinking?" Jesus answered, *"Shouldn't I drink the cup of suffering which my Father has given me?"* (John 18:11)

When asked, "What about the poor?" Jesus answered, *"Though I was rich, for your sake I became poor, so that you by my poverty might become rich!"* (2 Corinthians 8:9)

When the King of heaven and earth was suspended between heaven and earth, dying for the sins of this earth His mother was there. The best gift that a mother can give her children is not to help them feel good about themselves; but to help them see that the God in heaven has put them here for a purpose! Through Christ we are a kingdom of priests! ***The mission of motherhood is to challenge children to become who God says they are in Christ!***