

PROVERBS 31: A Mother's Lessons to Her Child (Part 3)

<p>¹ The words of King Lemuel, the utterance (<i>massa</i>) which his mother taught him:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word translated "utterance" is <i>massa</i>, a name of a son of Ishmael. It is likely that this is written to a descendant of Massa, and king of a tribe in north Arabia (Gen 25:14; 1 Chr 1:30). • Thus, "The words of Lemuel, king of Massa, with which his mother instructed him." • This is a record of the active <u>influence</u> of a mother towards her son, and indicates a range of <u>topics</u> about which a mother can influence her children. 	
<p>² What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?</p>	<p>1. Teach About Origin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of <u>belonging</u> • Sense of <u>connection</u> • Sense of <u>direction</u>
<p>³ Do not give your strength to women [<i>ishshah</i> – here PLURAL, cp. V10], Nor your ways [<i>time, habits, energy, focus</i>] to that which destroys kings.</p>	<p>2. Teach About Purity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not give over your <u>power</u> • Do not give over your <u>purpose</u>
<p>⁴ It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink [<i>shekar</i>]; ⁵ Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.</p>	<p>3. Teach About Sobriety</p> <p>Restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No wine • No intoxicating ("strong") drink <p>Reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Forget</u> the law • <u>Pervert</u> the justice
<p>⁶ Give strong drink [<i>shekar</i>] to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart. ⁷ Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more.</p>	<p>4. Teach About Mercy</p> <p>Prescription</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong drink → One <u>dying</u> • Wine → One <u>bitter</u> of heart <p>Purpose (medicinal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine → Relaxant / <u>Sleep</u> aid • Strong drink → <u>Pain</u> killer
<p>⁸ Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all <i>who are</i> appointed to die (lit. "children of passing"). ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.</p>	<p>5. Teach About Justice</p> <p>What</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See • Speak Up • Sort Out ("judge righteously") <p>Who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those that have no <u>voice</u> • Those that have no <u>hope</u> • Those that have no <u>help</u>
<p>¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth <i>is</i> far above rubies. ¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.</p>	<p>6. Teach About Matrimony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek <u>one</u> wife [<i>ishshah</i>] • Seek a <u>virtuous</u> wife • <u>Value</u> of a virtuous wife • 11-12 opposite of <i>destroys</i> (v3) • 11-31 The type of woman to look for

Characteristics to Look for in a Spouse

<p>¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth <i>is</i> far above rubies.</p>	<p>Virtuous & _____</p>
<p>¹¹ The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.</p>	<p>Trustworthy & _____</p>
<p>¹² She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.</p>	<p>Intent & _____</p>
<p>¹³ She seeks wool and flax, And willingly works with her hands.</p>	<p>Inventive & _____</p>
<p>¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.</p>	<p>Active & _____</p>
<p>¹⁵ She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants.</p>	<p>Selfless & _____</p>
<p>¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.</p>	<p>Productive & _____</p>
<p>¹⁷ She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.</p>	<p>Helpful & _____</p>
<p>¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise <i>is</i> good, And her lamp does not go out by night.</p>	<p>Reflective & _____</p>
<p>¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle.</p>	<p>Skillful & _____</p>
<p>²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.</p>	<p>Aware & _____</p>
<p>²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household <i>is</i> clothed with scarlet.</p>	<p>Plans & _____</p>
<p>²² She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing <i>is</i> fine linen and purple.</p>	<p>Self-aware & _____</p>
<p>²³ Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.</p>	<p>Enabling & _____</p>
<p>²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells <i>them</i>, And supplies sashes for the merchants.</p>	<p>Industrious & _____</p>
<p>²⁵ Strength and honor <i>are</i> her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.</p>	<p>Modest & _____</p>
<p>²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue <i>is</i> the law of kindness.</p>	<p>Wisely & Kindly _____</p>
<p>²⁷ She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.</p>	<p>Watchful & _____</p>
<p>Summary Of Value</p>	
<p>²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband <i>also</i>, and he praises her: ²⁹ "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."</p>	<p>Blessed by her _____ Blessed by her _____</p>
<p>³⁰ Charm <i>is</i> deceitful and beauty <i>is</i> passing, But a woman <i>who</i> fears the LORD, she shall be praised.</p>	<p>Externals vs _____</p>
<p>³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.</p>	<p>Reward of her _____ Reward of her _____</p>