

August 4, 2024

The King's Burden

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

Proverbs 31:1-9 ¹These are the words of King Lemuel—the burden that his mother taught him: ²What shall I say, O my son? What, O son of my womb? What, O son of my vows? ³Do not spend your strength on women or your vigor on those who ruin kings. ⁴It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to crave strong drink, ⁵lest they drink and forget what is decreed, depriving all the oppressed of justice. ⁶Give strong drink to one who is perishing, and wine to the bitter in soul. ⁷Let him drink and forget his poverty and remember his misery no more. ⁸Open your mouth for those with no voice, or the cause of all the dispossessed. ⁹Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the poor and needy. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. This passage is **advice** that a king's mother gave to him when he was young. V. 1-2
- B. The king was warned of those who **drain** the strength and who ruin kings. V. 3
- C. The king was warned to stay away from **addictive** behavior. V. 4-5
- D. The king was encouraged to have **compassion** for the sick and depressed. V. 6-7
- E. The king was encouraged to **defend** the cause of the poor and needy. V. 8-9

II. How can we apply these truths to our life?

- A. We should be pouring our life into the **next** generation. Our life isn't just for us to live selfishly.
- B. We must be willing to **end** human friendships if they are pulling us away from God.
- C. We must have a clear understanding of the **parameters** of our freedoms in Christ.
 - * Is it **constructive**?
 - * Is it **beneficial**?
 - * Is it **addictive**?
 - * Does it cause others to **stumble**?
 - * Can I participate in this activity with a **clear** conscience?
- D. We must be compassionate toward the **sick** and **depressed**.
- E. We must be willing to defend the cause of the **poor** and **needy**.