

## Lesson 12: Speaking

### Proverbs 10-31 (selections) – Words of Life > Death

**15:<sup>4</sup> A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.**

10:<sup>11</sup> The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

18:<sup>21</sup> Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

#### 1. Listening > Talking

#### *Whether to Speak*

10:<sup>8</sup> The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

12:<sup>15</sup> The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

18:<sup>2</sup> A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

14:<sup>15</sup> The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.

18:<sup>17</sup> The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.

19:<sup>20</sup> Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

11:<sup>14</sup> Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety. [15:22, 24:6]

15:<sup>31</sup> The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

29:<sup>1</sup> He who is often reproofed, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.

14:<sup>7</sup> Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge. [20:19]

#### 2. Truth > Lies

#### *What to Speak*

12:<sup>19</sup> Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

12:<sup>22</sup> Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

13:<sup>5</sup> The righteous hates falsehood, but the wicked brings shame and disgrace.

21:<sup>6</sup> The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor [or “fantasy” NKJV] and a snare of death.

#### Rebuke > Flattery

26:<sup>28</sup> A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

29:<sup>5</sup> A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

28:<sup>23</sup> Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.

27:<sup>5</sup> Better is open rebuke than hidden love. [see also 27:6]

#### Concealing > Gossiping

12:<sup>23</sup> A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly.

17:<sup>9</sup> Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

11:<sup>13</sup> Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

26:<sup>20</sup> For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

<sup>21</sup> As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

26: <sup>22</sup> The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. [18:8]

10: <sup>18</sup> **The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.**

### Healing > Hurtful

16: <sup>24</sup> Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

?11: <sup>9</sup> With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

15: <sup>1</sup> A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

18: <sup>6</sup> A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.

31: <sup>8</sup> Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.

<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

### 3. Less > More

### *When to Speak*

29: <sup>11</sup> A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

10: <sup>19</sup> When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

13: <sup>3</sup> Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

17: <sup>28</sup> Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

### Measured > Rash/Hasty

29: <sup>20</sup> Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

18: <sup>13</sup> If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

26: <sup>4</sup> Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.

<sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

### Opportune > Ill-Timed

15: <sup>23</sup> To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

25: <sup>11</sup> A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

25: <sup>20</sup> Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.

27: <sup>14</sup> Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

## Lesson 13: Spending

Proverbs 10-31 (selections) – The Two Ways and Wealth

<sup>30:7</sup> Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:

<sup>8</sup> Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is needful for me,

<sup>9</sup> lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?”  
or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

### 1. Lazy or Diligent

[Wise with Time/Energy]

<sup>10</sup> <sup>4</sup> A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

<sup>24</sup> <sup>33</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,

<sup>34</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

<sup>20</sup> <sup>13</sup> Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

<sup>12</sup> <sup>11</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows *worthless pursuits* lacks sense.

<sup>13</sup> <sup>4</sup> The soul of the sluggard *craves* and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

<sup>21</sup> <sup>25</sup> The *desire* of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

<sup>26</sup> All day long he *craves and craves*, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

<sup>28</sup> <sup>19</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,

but he who follows *worthless pursuits* will have plenty of poverty.

<sup>16</sup> <sup>3</sup> Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

<sup>23</sup> <sup>4</sup> Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.

<sup>5</sup> When your **eyes** light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

### 2. Haughty or Generous

[Wise with Position/Influence]

<sup>22</sup> <sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor meet together; the LORD is the maker of them all.

<sup>29</sup> <sup>13</sup> The poor man and the oppressor meet together; the LORD gives light to the **eyes** of both.

<sup>18</sup> <sup>23</sup> The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.

<sup>22</sup> <sup>7</sup> The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

<sup>21</sup> <sup>13</sup> Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.

<sup>28</sup> <sup>27</sup> Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his **eyes** will get many a curse.

<sup>14</sup> <sup>20</sup> The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

<sup>19</sup> <sup>4</sup> Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend. (also 14:20,21: 19:7)

<sup>7</sup> All a poor man's brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but does not have them.

<sup>14</sup> <sup>31</sup> Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him. (17:5)

19 <sup>17</sup> Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

22 <sup>22</sup> Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate,

<sup>23</sup> for the LORD will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.

29 <sup>7</sup> A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.

22 <sup>16</sup> Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

11 <sup>24</sup> One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

<sup>25</sup> Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

13 <sup>7</sup> One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

13 <sup>23</sup> The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.

28 <sup>11</sup> A rich man is wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has understanding will find him out.

### 3. Obsession or Devotion

[*Wise with Money/Possessions*]

11 <sup>28</sup> Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

10 <sup>15</sup> A rich man's wealth is his strong city; the poverty of the poor is their ruin.

18 <sup>10</sup> The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

<sup>11</sup> A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.

27 <sup>20</sup> Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the **eyes** of man.

28 <sup>22</sup> A stingy man (lit. evil **eye**) hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.

29 <sup>9</sup> Whoever has a bountiful **eye** will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

10 <sup>22</sup> The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

22 <sup>4</sup> The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

15 <sup>16</sup> Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.

<sup>17</sup> Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

16 <sup>8</sup> Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

16 <sup>19</sup> It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

28 <sup>6</sup> Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

11 <sup>4</sup> Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

28 <sup>20</sup> A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

17 <sup>23</sup> The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice. (though 21:14)

20 <sup>14</sup> "Bad, bad," says the buyer, but when he goes away, then he boasts.

16 <sup>11</sup> A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are his work.

20 <sup>10</sup> Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD. (11:1, 20:23)

29: <sup>14</sup> If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.

## Lesson 14: Ruling

Proverbs 10-31 (selections) – Wisdom for Leadership

Important Motif of Ruling/Kings

Importance of Wisdom for Leading

Listen to Your Mother (where a good leader starts)

31:<sup>1</sup> The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him:

<sup>2</sup> What are you doing, my son?

What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?

<sup>3</sup> Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.

<sup>4</sup> It is not for kings, O Lemuel,

it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink,

<sup>5</sup> lest they drink and forget what has been decreed  
and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

<sup>6</sup> Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;

<sup>7</sup> let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.

<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Being in Charge (for better or worse)

16:<sup>10</sup> An oracle is on the lips of a king; his mouth does not sin in judgment.

25:<sup>2</sup> It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

<sup>3</sup> As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

22:<sup>7</sup> The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

23:<sup>1</sup> When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you,

<sup>2</sup> and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite.

<sup>3</sup> Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food

Preparing (self-rule to societal-rule, exemplifying all of wisdom)

16:<sup>32</sup> Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

17:<sup>2</sup> A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully

and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.

25:<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

12:<sup>24</sup> The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

17:<sup>7</sup> Fine speech is not becoming to a fool; still less is false speech to a prince.

28:<sup>2</sup> When a land transgresses, it has many rulers,

but with a man of understanding and knowledge, its stability will long continue.

### Performing and Consequences (two ways in ruling too)

16: <sup>12</sup> It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.

20: <sup>28</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king, and by steadfast love his throne is upheld.

28: <sup>16</sup> A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.

29: <sup>4</sup> By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts tears it down.

29: <sup>14</sup> If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.

#### Oppressing

29: <sup>2</sup> When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

28: <sup>15</sup> Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

#### Relating to the Wicked

25: <sup>4</sup> Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;

<sup>5</sup> take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

29: <sup>12</sup> If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked.

20: <sup>8</sup> A king who sits on the throne of judgment winnows all evil with his eyes.

20: <sup>26</sup> A wise king winnows the wicked and drives the wheel over them.

#### Relating to the Wise

16: <sup>13</sup> Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.

22: <sup>11</sup> He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.

22: <sup>29</sup> Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

### Depending (ruling is a two way street)

14: <sup>28</sup> In a multitude of people is the glory of a king, but without people a prince is ruined.

30: <sup>31</sup> the strutting rooster, the he-goat, and a king whose army is with him.

### Submitting (not all are in charge)

25: <sup>15</sup> With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.

14: <sup>35</sup> A servant who deals wisely has the king's favor, but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.

19: <sup>12</sup> A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

16: <sup>14</sup> A king's wrath is a messenger of death, and a wise man will appease it.

16: <sup>15</sup> In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.

20: <sup>2</sup> The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger forfeits his life.

### Overturing (reversal of humility, not a reversal of fortune)

19: <sup>10</sup> It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury, much less for a slave to rule over princes.

30: <sup>22</sup> a slave when he becomes king, and a fool when he is filled with food;

### Ruling and the LORD

21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

24:21 My son, fear the LORD and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise,

29:26 Many seek the face of a ruler, but it is from the LORD that a man gets justice.