

Proverbs 11:1-31
“The Life That God Blesses”

~ INTRO ~

(Eph. 5:8b-10)

- “Walk as children of light... finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

TONIGHT...

- We dive into (Proverbs 11)...
 - And continue learning about the wisdom of King Solomon.
- This chapter is known for “**Sentence Literature**”
 - Because the topics vary verse-by-verse.

(PROVERBS 11)...

- Is a chapter that speaks to... practical stuff we all want to know...
 - But are not sure where to look.

~ SEVEN BUCKETS OF TRUTH ~

TRUTH #1 – GOD BLESSES INTEGRITY (vv. 1–3)

(Deut. 25:13-16) NKJV

- The idea is dishonest dealings in business...
 - Causes you to be at odds with God.

GOD CALLS IT AN “abomination” when we **lack integrity in work.**

HERE’S WHAT WE UNDERSTAND:

- God wants honesty in the details.
 - Integrity is NOT just big moments...
 - It’s in the details of my everyday life.

(v.3) THE RESULTS!

- Have you ever lived thru the consequences of doing something wrong?
 - Consequences should be a reminder AND a warning...
 - Not to do something again!

WE’RE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD...

- And get away from the things that are contrary to Him.

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Integrity is not just moral—it’s directional... *it guides our steps.*

- (Eph. 6:5-8) NKJV

HERE’S THE BENEFIT:

- *Integrity simplifies our life, but dishonesty complicates it.*

TRUTH #2 – WEALTH CAN’T SAVE YOU (v. 4)

- Money has limits...
 - It can make our life comfortable...
 - BUT it can’t make us right with God.

WHATS THE LIFE HACK?

- Don’t put your emotional security in money...
- (I Tim 6:6) NKJV “*Godliness with contentment is great gain*”

HERE’S THE TAKE AWAY:

- We’re NOT to measure blessings by income.

TRUTH #3 – RIGHTEOUSNESS DELIVERS—SIN DESTROYS (vv. 5–8)

These verses are a repeated idea from (Proverbs 10:27-29)

- (v.19) “*He who pursues evil... pursues it to his own death.*”

HERE’S THE BENEFIT:

- *God’s commands are not fences to trap us...
 - They’re guardrails to save us.*

TRUTH #4 – YOUR WORDS HAVE POWER (vv. 9–13)

(v.9a)

HYPOCRITE = A two-faced person talks bad about people behind their backs.

(v.9b)

BUT HERE’S HOW YOU OVERCOME THIS...

- Knowledge
 - Just know in advance what this person looks like...
 - And stay away from them.

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(Proverbs 29:9) “If a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace.”

(vv.10-11) These two verses touch on political leadership.

WHAT IS IT THAT HINDERS A GOOD WORK?

- Sin... (right!?!)

I HEARD A GOOD DEFINITION...

- Of the word Politics:
 - Poly = many
 - Tics = blood suckers

(Joshua 7:10-11) NKJV

- Sin was in the camp of Israel...

(vv.12-13)

OUR MOUTH SPEAKS OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART.

- And our words have the ability...
 - To destroy others OR to build them up.
- (v.12) *despises* = belittles others.
- (v.13) *talebearer* = gives malicious reports to a small circle of friends.

TRUTH #5 – WISDOM SEEKS COUNSEL (v. 14)

HERE’S A FEW MORE EXAMPLES...

(Proverbs 29:18) NKJV

- No revelation = Missing an accurate understanding of God’s word.

(1 Sam. 3:1) NKJV

“... The word of the Lord was rare in those days;
there was no wide spread revelation.”

THE EXACT SAME THING OCCURRED...

- In the book of Judges – There was civil & religious confusion...
 - Because people chose to disregard God’s word.

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TRUTH #6 – MORE LIFE HACKS (vv.15-23)

(v.15) As we learned back in (chapter 6)...

- It's not wise to act a guarantee for other people debts.
 - (co-signing loans is an example of this)

(v.16) A VERSE OF CONTRAST: A good woman (vs.) A bad man.

- A Good woman = Has inner beauty (character / you can trust her)
 - This is seen in action in (Proverbs 31:29-31).
- A Bad man = Selfish behavior dominates his reputation & relationships.
 - Traits of a good man can be seen in (Ps. 15:1-5).

(v.17) A GOOD MAN IS = Merciful

THE CONTRAST IS: “CRUEL” = Causes pain to others...

- And the kicker is... he has NO concern about doing it.

(v.18a) This describes the work of the cruel man in (v.17)

(vv.19-21) This is an extension of (Proverbs 9:12)

(v.22) There's nothing worse than a lovely woman...

- Who is foul mouthed.

KEY: *What you are matters more than how you look.*

(2 Peter 2:22) Describes people that turn away from the faith (dogs & pigs).

(v.23) NLT

*“The godly can look forward to a reward,
while the wicked can expect only judgment.”*

TRUTH #7 – GENEROSITY BRINGS BLESSING (vv. 24–26)

- God's economy is different from the worlds.
 - Giving doesn't reduce... it multiplies
 - Hoarding doesn't protect... it empties

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THE PRACTICAL WISDOM IS:

- A closed hands blocks blessings.

SUMMARY THOUGHTS:

In Business

- Absolute honesty
- No shortcuts
- Integrity over profit

In Relationships

- Speak life
- Avoid gossip
- Be trustworthy

With Money

- Give generously
- Don't trust wealth
- Honor God first

In Leadership

- Seek counsel
- Stay humble
- Influence others toward life

~ IN CLOSING ~

(Proverbs 11) shows us two different lives:

- a) The life of integrity, generosity, & wisdom = security.
- b) The life of deception, selfishness, & pride = will result in destruction.