

2024.05.31 Family Worship lesson in “the Proverb of the day”

Proverbs 31:8–9

“Speaking Up for Justice”

- 8 Open your mouth for the speechless,  
In the cause of all who are appointed to die.
- 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously,  
And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Pastor teaches his family a selection from “the Proverb of the day.” In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that Christians should speak up for those who can’t do so, both as citizens and as magistrates.

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

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Proverbs 31 verses 8 and 9. These are God's words. Open your mouth for the speechless. And the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth. Judge righteously. And plead the cause. Of the poor. And needy. So, for Reading of Gods inspired in an errandwort. Oh, There's a duty to speak up, it's a duty that is Going to become harder and more necessary.

The less Justice there is In the land, the more costly it becomes. As. Public opinion and courts. Operate more as Weapons to Target individuals. Institutions to execute Justice. And one of the

Great evils. In societies that have gone that way. Has been when those who. Knew better. Remain silent. Even when those who are upright, were being Condemned.

A phrase that is translated in verse 8, appointed to die is actually much more Vivid poetic than that.

Of passing away. Those who

Are so condemned. That it is almost like it's their family name.

And so we are. Urged by, Scripture instructed by scripture. To open our mouths. For those who cannot speak for themselves in our own culture. Uh, that is especially The Unborn who literally cannot speak for themselves and are murdered. Uh, before they draw their first breath. And so we ought to open our mouths for them.

But ver from verse 8 to Verse 9. There's a further encouragement and that is that Uh, The Godly would seek and Employ uprightly. Seats of authority. Remember Proverbs, 31? Um, The. Of King Lemuel which he has learned from his mother. And the bulk of the chapter is on finding the virtuous wife which would actually have begun in the verse immediately following The portion that we're taking, This evening together.

Well. Those who are Of noble character. Those who are Uh, Noble. Adoption. As we are. We ought to be willing. Um, and this is, of course, especially For the men. We ought to be willing. Uh, to take seats of authority, if the Lord in his Providence will, Give them to us.

Running for Local office. If the Lord so gifts us. Pursuing degrees in. Uh, law or political science. Um, which are Theologically and spiritually, dangerous types of schools to be in. And so Uh, you would have to select your your school carefully. But if we are going to I'll take the Command seriously, to open our mouth and judge.

Righteously in order to plead the cause of the poor and the needy. And the Lord has placed it within our ability. Uh, to come into and take seats of judgment. Then we ought to take both the scripture here and the Providence of God to us. Seriously. And if in Europe, brightness, Providence withholds from U.S seed of judgment.

Because you cannot tell the sorts of lies or commit the sorts of Promises or take the sorts of Oaths. That are required. Well then that is God's judgment upon the nation. And you will have. Attempted. Uh, to obey. But Providence will have hindered you in that case. Uh, and And yet, it is sobering.

That we have come into a season in the life of our nation. In which verse 8 and verse 9. Are. Um, Are increasingly in urgent. Upon us. Well, this is something you can practice even outside the courtroom setting. Especially in a circumstance where Judgment is being rushed to against others in conversation.

When things are spoken. When things are spoken, unfairly, or unjustly. When gossip is spoken. When authorities are disrespected behind their backs. Even among yourself, if one or another child would just

If one or another child were to speak, dishonorably About your parents. Any situation in which someone is not there to defend themselves? We must speak. Open our mouth. The speechless in those cases and urge people to follow the scripture. And to confront people. Face to face. If your brother sins against you, you go and tell him his fault between the two of you.

And follow the scripture in making right use. Of the Lord. Um, Authority structures that he has given us in both the Civil Society and in the church, Uh, someone doesn't always have to be confronted privately if it's a public offense. But still in the case of a public offense, Then the charges should be brought to whomever.

The Lord has given the authority over them. Uh, it is not possible. Uh, Bring whoever has sinned publicly to the sort of repentance in which he will confess his sin publicly or make restoration publicly. Uh, so there is encouragement here. Inverse 8 and verse 9. Uh, to follow God's word.

And speaking for those who are not there to defend themselves, And in making, right and proper use. Of the authorities, the judges that the Lord has put in both. The civil sphere. And And in his church,

All right, let's pray. Our gracious. God and our heavenly Father, we thank you for Uh, imminently practical and urgently applicable. This particular portion of your word is to us. Help us Lord. When it comes time to open our mouth. When it comes time when nobody is opening their mouth and someone should And help us to speak as your spirit teaches us to Grant that he who calls these words to be written on the page and has helped us.

In reading and explaining and hearing them. Uh, would also And help us by writing its truth on our hearts for, we ask it in Jesus name, Amen.