

Message #133

Proverbs 30:29-33

WISDOM IS DEMONSTRATED BY PATTERNING OUR LIVES AFTER STATELY, HUMBLE THINGS.**SEGMENT #1 – The classification of stately things. 30:29-31**

The word “stately,” which shows up twice in **verse 29**, is one that refers to something that is good, it is well and pleasing in the sight of God, something God prospers and blesses because in His estimation it is unique (Harris, Archer, Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, Vol. 1, p. 375). In these verses there are four stately existences named—three are animals and one is human.

Stately Existence #1 - The lion. **30:30** “mighty” = physical strength & rank; no fear/does not run.

Stately Existence #2 - The strutting rooster. **30:31a** = the Hebrew literally “girt in the loins”—some say it refers to a strutting rooster, a greyhound or even a horse.

Stately Existence #3 - The male goat. **30:31b** = leader of a flock, marches at head and stands out.

Stately Existence #4 - The king. **30:31c** = God gives a leader authority and people (Rom. 13:1-2).

SEGMENT #2 – The cure for proud things. 30:32

Some had been foolish in not recognizing God’s view of these stately things, especially the king, and had proudly refused to humble themselves to this stately existence. This is a problem of heart and mind. The cure is cease immediately from foolish thinking and speaking against the stately leader. Putting one’s hand in one’s mouth is a nice way of saying, “Shut your mouth” (Job 40:4).

SEGMENT #3 – The motivation for changing things. 30:33

The word “churning” is one that means pressure. If you pressurize milk, you produce butter. If you pressurize a nose, you produce blood. If you pressurize a hostile situation, you produce strife.

The challenge of **verse 32** is to keep silent and **verse 33** tells why—because it prevents a hot situation from becoming hotter; it lessens the pressure.

Not much is known about Agur. What we know, we learn in this chapter. He was a wise, humble, submissive-type of man who feared God and respected others. He didn’t think highly of himself (30:2-3) but he did think highly of everyone else. He was not wise in his own eyes. He did not mentally or verbally destroy others, but was a faithful, wise man of God.

Wise people are quiet, stately, humble, submissive people who stand in awe of God and respect God’s Word and work. They are not too proud to esteem others better than self (Philip. 2:3).