

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 30:11-20

11 There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers.

12 There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.

13 There are those—how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!

14 There are those whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mankind.

15 The leech has two daughters: Give and Give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough":

16 Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, "Enough."

17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

18 Three things are too wonderful for me; four I do not understand:


19 the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a virgin.

20 This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, "I have done no wrong."

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 30:11-20

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"I want it now!" is a famous statement by the character Veruca in the classic 1971 film, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Her character is a mirror of our fleshly desire: we are never satisfied, always desiring more, self-righteous, blinded to sin, and rebellious against authority. In Proverbs 30:11-20 the author describes the damage of filling our void with anything but the Lord and compares it to greed and rebellion.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Proverbs*

We live in a society plagued by consumerism and commercialism tempting our greedy desires. Commercials are conditioning our mindset, "Out with the old and in with the new." This cycle is creating a longing in our minds for the newest phone, the most current vehicle, and the biggest houses. However, the desire to want more actually started in the beginning, with Adam and Eve, in Genesis 3. The enemy used manipulation, "Did God really say..." to Eve, and created doubt and a desire to be tempted away from what was designed to be good limitations. Pride entered into the heart of mankind at that moment within the garden and the cravings to have more and to be like God was born. The Lord had set healthy boundaries for Adam and Eve, saying, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die" (Genesis 2:16-17). Instead of obeying and living in peace, the cravings of what is missing designed an empty void that we fill with created things. The Lord is the only one who can satisfy us, yet we find cheap substitutes, have unsatisfied longings and wonder why we still feel empty. "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13).

If you have a new life in Christ, you must put to death the desires of the flesh and walk in the Spirit. "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures" (Titus 3:3). As we grow in our relationship with the Lord and seek his will, our desires and perspective begin to change. Call out to the Lord and ask him to help you capture any impure thoughts or cravings and make them obedient to Christ. Ask him to remove any area you are struggling with. Go to his Word to find satisfaction just as Jesus shared with the woman at the well. "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14).

Questions:

1. Have you put your trust in Christ? If so, what is your story of transformation? Share with someone who needs to hear the hope that you have. If not, pray and ask the Lord to break your heart for what breaks His. Come to repentance and lay your burdens down at the cross.
2. Read Colossians 3:5-10 What do you need to put to death? Confess to your community group or accountability partner.
3. How are you tending to your relationship with the Lord and others?