

## Proverbs Week #159 (14:28)

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*In the multitude of people is the king's honor: but in the lack of people is the destruction of the prince.*

*Proverbs 14:28*

What I'm hoping to communicate in today's lesson is the connection between who people are (in reality-in their everyday lives) and the Sovereign they serve. I also want to make a connection between the ideas of family, nation, and identity. We may have a hard time understanding the relationship of a king to his kingdom (or subjects) and how this relates to glory or honor. Even in Europe where positions of royalty are still honored and respected, the reality of living life for a king or queen may not be a primary motivator for the choices made in life.

Some cultural observers in our times have pointed out that western civilization is at a turning point. People in many western nations are having smaller families and it is changing their way of life. For example, Italian families were once known for large meals at family tables. In America, we envision an Italian grandmother serving freshly made pasta (from her family's secret recipe) to a large family of lively and boisterous brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles. This image may not be far from the truth for the typical Italian family 30 years ago. Each individual family would likely have had 6 or more children. In modern times the average Italian family is 2 to 3. Our stereotypes of Italian families are going to change over the next 100 years if this trend continues.

How do we relate all of this to our verse from Proverbs? Before I answer that question, let's look to the Bible and see what it teaches about kings and kingdoms.

*"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*

*"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6.7-12 NAS95)*

In the center of His teaching about prayer, Yeshua taught His disciples to make a meaningful request that God's kingdom would come and His will be done. The prayer was not to be offered to God with meaningless repetition but with a sure knowledge that our Father knows what we need. The daily request for the Kingdom in heaven to be an earthly reality would mark the disciples of Yeshua. It should also be the very thing that marks us in our daily lives as His disciples too! We are to pray for our daily bread (do you ever get hungry?) and in so doing we are to be reminded that service to our King is also a part of our "minimum daily requirements." Are you seeing any connections to my example of Italian families daily routines and our proverbs yet? Let's look at one other passage.

*The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. "Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day — in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. "Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them." (1 Samuel 8.7-9 NAS95)*

In end of the days of the judges in Israel the people no longer wanted judges to rule over them. They wanted a king like all the other nations. God granted their request but also warned them what having a king like this would mean. The king would take their sons and put them in chariots and train some to be commanders and some to supervise farming and making of instruments of war. He would assign daughters as perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He would also require portions of the best of the produce of the fields to be given to him. A multitude of people brings glory to a king. All their talents and treasures serve the ideals of the king. Our God's desire is for the treasures He gives to be used in His service and in giving glory and honor to Him.