

## **BD5: The Strong Respect Authority (vs. 21-22)**

**ILL—Superman Arrested** (a theme in both of the last two Superman movies; I love it; no one could actually arrest him; it shows his respect for the government) I love the fact that we see, in this moment, a final aspect of his strength: his **respect for authority**.

**PV 24.21-22** ~ *My son, fear the Lord and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise, <sup>22</sup>for disaster will arise suddenly from them, and who knows the ruin that will come from them both?*

**EX:** It's odd to see Solomon calling on his son to "*fear the Lord and the king*" since, of course, he would end up becoming king. For that reason, some argue that this isn't even Solomon talking to his son, at all! I think this actually is a general piece of advice: encouraging his son to show **respect for authority**—even when some might think he didn't have to.

**AP:** We often respect "**independence**" and a "**tough guy**"/"**lone wolf**" attitude and equate that with "**strength**". Rather, Solomon echoes the principles of the rest of scripture: reminding us of the importance of respecting those in authority over us—both earthly, and Heavenly. By showing that submission and humility, we are able to show our true strength.

**RM 13.1-2** ~ *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*

## **CONCLUSION**

Men want to be strong, almost to a one. Even when we're young, we take pride in what we can lift (we've all seen how young men pride-themselves on how many folding chairs they can carry around when cleaning the fellowship hall). As I've grown older, Superman has ultimately become my clear favorite character—a character who, when dealt with correctly, is the example of true strength.

But, like Solomon showed, true strength isn't always what we think it is. Truly strong people **care for those in danger**, are **strong in wisdom**, **get back up again** when they fall, **show mercy**, and **respect authority**. Ultimately, our strength is found when we live a life by the principles of God and not the principles of Man.

**EH 6.10-12** ~ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

## **INVITATION**

#649 [EXP-OTW]  
07/12/2025

**From a Father to His Son – Part 6**  
PC Pchd

PV 24.10-22

**QUESTION:** What can we learn from the 30 sayings of Solomon to his son?

## **TRN TO PV 24**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**ILL—Types of Super Heroes** (Flash: super-speed; Spider-Man: relative strength and speed of a spider; Iron Man: mechanical genius) It was fun talking with my friends and trying to figure out which super hero was their favorite. Honestly, you could tell a lot about what a person valued by which super hero was their favorite.

My first was Superman. His powers: super speed, flight, and especially his strength—these were all amazing on the silver-screen! But as I grew a bit older, he started to bore me. After all, **what's the fun in someone so powerful?**

### **BACKGROUND**

We've been looking at Solomon: whose wisdom was used as a superpower! The Bible describes his wisdom as a gift. *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." (1KN 3.5)* Solomon said, *Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" (1KN 3.9)*

Solomon's God-given wisdom was well-renowned. And even to this day, we find ourselves studying his wisdom recorded **1KN**, **EC**, and **PV**. In **PV 23-24**, Solomon records some important advice for his son—30 statements we've been reviewing over the last 5 weeks. Today, as we come to the end of these wise statements, we see that Solomon focuses on something new: he calls for his son to be strong: *If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. (PV 24.10)*

**ILL—Arm Wrestling** (when young, we would show how strong we were; really, it proves nothing; it's not often you need to do that particular arm motion—let alone with particular force) **How do you really show strength?** Solomon said strength was shown in your ability to stand in "**the day of adversity**". But interestingly, that "**day of adversity**" isn't overcome by the strength of your biceps. For the remaining six statements, Solomon tells his son what makes up real strength. And Brethren, strength isn't defined by your muscles, given by the bite of a radioactive spider or the power of an alien sun. Real strength comes from a person's character.

### **BD1: The Strong are Concerned for all in Danger (vs. 11-12)**

**ILL—Respect for Life** (enjoyed several movies; flight and fighting; one of my favorite moments: **rescuing an animal**) When he uses that power to rescue a dog, it shows the love he has for everyone—how he's **concerned for all in danger**.

**PV 24.11** ~ *Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.*

**EX:** Solomon praises the person who uses their power for the advantage and help for the struggling: those "*stumbling to the slaughter*". The image is of people who've found themselves trapped. Solomon calls his son to **rescue those in danger**.

I think of Paul's wisdom and confidence. He stands as a prime example of the **strength** Solomon encouraged. Paul's heart burned for those doomed to death.

**RM 9.1-3** ~ *I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>*

*For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.*

Think of the love Paul had to have to think and write those words: to love his lost Jewish brethren so much he wishes he could give up his own soul for them.

**PV 24.12** ~ *If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?*

**EX:** Solomon warned his son against thinking he could argue ignorance. Because here’s the thing: God knows. As **JR** puts it, *“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”* (**JR 17.10**)

**AP:** Whether talking about those doomed in the physical world, or the spiritual one, Solomon encouraged his son to show strength by **caring for those in danger**. And we ought to do the same: true strength isn’t shown in using our strength, talents, and gifts for ourselves, but by using it for **caring for those in danger**—the lost!

**RM 10.14-15** ~ *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

### **BD2: The Strong are Strong in Wisdom (vs. 13-14)**

**ILL—Lex’s Opinion of Superman** (doesn’t respect Superman; sees him as an idiot; by the end, we see that Superman isn’t just strong, he’s wise) For ultimately, your strength isn’t just measured in your muscles: but by being **strong in wisdom**.

**PV 24.13** ~ *My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.*

**EX:** Honey is a reference to blessings—to the good and wonderful things of life. We see it in **EX** with the reference to a *“land flowing with milk and honey”* (**EX 3.17**), and we see it in **IS**: *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. (IS 7.14-15) But what was honey? What’s the good, sweet thing when it comes to true strength?*

**PV 24.14** ~ *Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off.*

**AP:** It wouldn’t be power, wealth, or fame that would be the good, sweet thing. It was wisdom: and not just knowing trivia, but knowing the word of the Lord. And Brethren, this is key for us to remember, too. Our strength is not found in our power or in our muscles. Our true strength is found in trust in the word and way and wisdom of God.

**PV 3.13-18** ~ *Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding. <sup>14</sup> for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. <sup>15</sup> She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. <sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. <sup>17</sup> Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. <sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.*

### **BD3: The Strong Get up Again (vs. 15-16)**

**ILL—Death of Superman** (1992, wasn’t reading comics, knew about it; it was a nationwide event; shocking that he would die) Of course, we all should have known that he’d come back. After all: of course Superman would come back to life. Of course, because **the strong get up again**.

**PV 24.15-16** ~ *Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the righteous; do no violence to his home; <sup>16</sup> for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.*

**EX:** Solomon provided key advice to his son: don’t move against a righteous man, because if you do, it won’t go well for you. The righteous gets back up again. **And why?** He doesn’t say it, but the rest of Scripture does.

**PS 37.39-40** ~ *The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. <sup>40</sup> The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.*

**AP:** The Psalmist informs the words of Solomon here: **“Don’t turn against the righteous, Son, because God’s on their side. If you turn against them, you’re going to fail. Because if you turn against God, you’re going to fail.”** God is hard at work in and through the lives of His people. And He’s not going to fail!

**PH 1.6** ~ *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

### **BD4: The Strong Show Mercy (vs. 17-20)**

**ILL—Superman’s Opinion of Lex** (Lex: “not a man, he’s an it”; by the end of the movie, Lex has lost, and Superman talks to him; Superman is impressed with him; says his strength was his humanity; hope Lex eventually sees that, too) In this, one of the key aspects of the **strengths** of Superman becomes clear: he shows mercy—even to his enemy.

**PV 24.17-18** ~ *Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, <sup>18</sup> lest the Lord see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.*

**EX:** Does this mean that we shouldn’t want the wicked to fail? It depends on what you mean by that. Clearly, we can be grateful for the failure of the evil schemes of evil people: *The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked. (PS 58.10)* But when it comes to the person, themselves, we should not rejoice at their misfortune. We should want their best: which includes, foremost, their repentance!

**PS 35.11-14** ~ *Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me of things that I do not know. <sup>12</sup> They repay me evil for good; my soul is bereft. <sup>13</sup> But I, when they were sick—I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed on my chest. <sup>14</sup> I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother; as one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning.*

Solomon wanted his son to have mercy for his enemies and to not worry himself about their supposed successes: *Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, <sup>20</sup> for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out. (PV 24.19-20)* For ultimately, they fail.

**AP:** And this is a message for us, as well. We see people who do and live wickedly. And sometimes, we can find ourselves slowly moving to **“hating the sinner”**. But in truth, we should desire the best for them—showing mercy and love and remembering that God desires them as He desired us!

**MT 5.43-48** ~ *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*