

**Proverbs 30:7-9 NIV**

***“Two things I ask of you, LORD;  
do not refuse me before I die:  
Keep falsehood and lies far from me;  
give me neither poverty nor riches,  
but give me only my daily bread.  
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you  
and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’  
Or I may become poor and steal,  
and so dishonor the name of my God.”***

The verses above are high on my list of favorites because they are fitting for nearly every situation you may find yourself. They are a perfect example of how God’s Word is a living and breathing truth. That may sound odd to someone who isn’t familiar with scripture(s) where it says the Bible is alive. No matter how many times you may read a verse, God will use it to show you something new, each and every time.

***“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 NIV)***

I imagine every one of us can relate to the words, “Keep falsehood and lies far from me.” Well, perhaps anyone with a conscience. I have come to a place in my life where there is no room for lying. I don’t want to carry anything that might reflect negatively on my character. If we proclaim Christ as our Savior, we are his ambassadors and have a responsibility to set an example of truth and honesty, so that no one will stumble because of us. “So I may not dishonor the name of my God.”

“Give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread.” He knows us only too well, doesn’t he? Some people just aren’t meant to have millions of dollars. We couldn’t manage the responsibility that comes with great wealth. Just read King Solomon’s words in the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 2. It’s worth your time reading, trust me. Then in verses 24-25, he comes to this conclusion:

***“A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?”***

We are so good at complicating something that was intended to be quite simple, aren't we? I know it's only by God's grace that I was born in America. It is said that even our poorest citizens live like kings compared to so many in third world countries. Jesus said we will always have the poor among us, and we are to care for them.

There are videos of these precious people who are in God's family, and despite their being desperately poor financially, they are rich in faith. Their smiles are contagious, and I find myself feeling ashamed when I see how blessed I am. "Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?'"

I've been in a strange head space the last couple of weeks. While I was in church this morning, I felt a need to not only ask Jesus to forgive me for my selfish thoughts, but also because it has been a while since I really shared why I love him so very much. I would be so lost without God's presence in my life, and I want to stress how important it is for you to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

When you have finished the course in this earthly life, what will you have to show for your time here? A house, property, a few cars, money in the bank? You can't take it with you. Okay, leave it to your kids, but eventually they will be facing the same reality. When you die, B. 1970 – D. 20XX will be on your headstone. **What did you do with your dash in between?**

The most important thing I hope others will say about me is, "She loved Jesus well."

Blessings,

Lisa Jo

