



Verse of the day for Monday September 21, 2026 - Proverbs 2: 1-5

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Read Proverbs 2 for meditation and inspiration.



“TO LIFE” WITH A MOTHER’S LOVE

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

An elementary school teacher tells of the morning she met a neighbor in the laundry room of their apartment building. "How's your ten-year-old daughter doing in school?" she asked. "Well," he said, "let's put it this way: I was helping her with her homework last night when she looked up at me and said, 'Dad, you're almost as smart as a mom.'"

Indeed! Perhaps more important for that daughter is something that was again confirmed in a recent, well-regarded scientific study: All around the world, women are better empathizers than men. And no matter where they live in the world, no matter what their cultural or family influences, moms score high marks in this area of life. And we all know empathy is crucial for any parent who wants to provide tender, loving care for their children.

In Matthew's Gospel is the story of a woman trying desperately to provide her daughter with a mother's tender, loving care. The mother is a "Canaanite woman," Matthew tells us. The term "Canaanite" is used here by Matthew to indicate that this woman is an outsider -- a non-Jew. In the Old Testament, Canaanites were referred to as wicked and godless.

Nevertheless, this Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

She repented of her life's beliefs by calling Jesus "Son of David" or "Messiah," the David figure promised to be God's Anointed to rule and, in this instance, to rule her. She cried for mercy which is a sign of a humble heart. She believed that this was the "Lord" who had the power of life. His response to anyone who approaches him repentant, humble, and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly."LIFE AND LIFE ETERNAL!

As our Jewish friends say, **L'chaim** (pronounced luh-KHYE-im) "To Life!"

So, to you **"L'chaim!"**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger