

Proverbs 22:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

Analysis

Those skilled in their work gain positions before kings—excellence brings recognition and opportunity. This affirms vocational diligence as way to serve God and advance His kingdom. Work done 'as unto the Lord' demonstrates faith through faithful stewardship of abilities.

Historical Context

Joseph, Daniel, and Nehemiah exemplified this—their competence brought them before foreign kings where they represented God. Skilled craftsmen built the tabernacle and temple, serving God through excellence.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does excellence in your vocation serve God and witness to His character?
2. What skills are you developing that could open doors for greater kingdom impact?

Interlinear Text

מֶלֶךְ יְמִינָה לְפָנֶיךָ בְּמִלְאָכְתְּךָ וְמִתְּהִיר אַיִלָּתְךָ יְתָהַר

Seest thou a man diligent in his business before kings

H2372

H376

diligent

H4106

in his business

H4399

before

H6440

kings

H4428

מְשֻׁפְּכִים: לְפָנֶיךָ ! תִּצְאֶב בֶּל ! תִּצְאֶב !

he shall not stand he shall not stand before mean

H3320

H1077

he shall not stand

H3320

before

H6440

mean

H2823

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:28 (Parallel theme): And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

Matthew 25:21 (Parallel theme): His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Proverbs 10:4 (Parallel theme): He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 12:24 (Parallel theme): The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Matthew 25:23 (Parallel theme): His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Genesis 41:46 (Kingdom): And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

Romans 12:11 (Sin): Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

1 Kings 10:8 (Parallel theme): Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

2 Timothy 4:2 (Parallel theme): Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

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