

ENHANCED, IMPROVE, IMPROVED, IMPROVES

When Ruth's nearest kinsman refused to obey the Mosaic Law and take her as his wife, he robbed himself of a tremendous blessing. His inheritance was actually marred by *not* taking Ruth as his wife, and would have been greatly **enhanced** if he had taken her. (The Messiah could have come through him instead of Boaz.)

- **Ruth 4:6:** "And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it."

When Saul heard the women of Israel say that David had done more on the battlefield than him, it didn't motivate him to **improve** and be more courageous. Instead he became jealous of David.

- **1 Samuel 18:7-8:** "And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?"

When David killed Goliath, it didn't **improve** his life. Instead it caused Saul to turn against him and become his enemy (because people praised David for it, and Saul became jealous).

- **1 Samuel 18:6-7, 9:** "And it came to pass as they came,

when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. ... And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."

The mood of King Ahasuerus was **improved** by the wine he had been drinking (and seems to have led to his decision to invite Vashti to the party).

- **Esther 1:10-11:** "On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on."

It seems Job put salt on his food to **improve** its taste.

- **Job 6:6:** "Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?"

When Job was greatly afflicted, he lost all hope. He didn't believe his situation would ever **improve**. (However, in the end it did.)

- **Job 7:7:** "O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good."

Job wanted God to fix the suffering and pain in his life, but when he cried out to God things didn't **improve**.

- **Job 19:7:** "Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment."

Even though Job told people about the terrible things that were happening to him, no one did anything to help him. Instead people condemned him for things he didn't do, and refused to do anything to **improve** his situation.

- **Job 30:12-14:** "Upon my right hand rise the youth; they push away my feet, and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction. They mar my path, they set forward my calamity, they have no helper. They came upon me as a wide breaking in of waters: in the desolation they rolled themselves upon me."

Choosing wisdom instead of foolishness can **improve** our physical health. On the other hand, choosing foolishness can make our life much worse.

- **Psalms 38:5:** "My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness."

God's commandments are a good thing. Obeying them can greatly **improve** our life.

- **Proverbs 3:1-2:** "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."
- **Proverbs 3:7-8:** "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel,

and marrow to thy bones."

A woman of virtue is a crown to her husband. She's a precious treasure who **improves** his life and gives him glory and honor.

- **Proverbs 12:4:** "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones."

If we apply ourselves to knowledge and listen to those who are wise, what we'll learn will **improve** our conversation. We'll be able to speak with wisdom.

- **Proverbs 22:17-18:** "Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips."

A virtuous woman seeks to bring merchandise for her home from distant lands. She tries to **improve** her household and enrich it, and works for the good of her family.

- **Proverbs 31:14:** "She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar."

As a sign that Hezekiah would **improve** and recover from his illness, God said that He would reverse the course of the sun in the sky so that the shadow on the sundial would go backwards instead of forwards.

- **Isaiah 38:7-8:** "And this shall be a sign unto thee from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing that he hath spoken; Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees,

which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down."

Serving God didn't **improve** Jeremiah's life (which was often the case for the prophets). Instead it brought him terrible pain and sorrow, because God tormented him and made him desolate. (There are times when God appoints people to suffer, much like Job suffered.)

- **Lamentations 3:11:** "He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces: he hath made me desolate."

Since Daniel's health **improved** when he began eating pulse instead of the king's meat, Melzar approved the change in diet and made it permanent.

- **Daniel 1:15-16:** "And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse."

Unholy things don't become **improved** if they're touched by something holy. Instead they defile the holy thing that touched them.

- **Haggai 2:12:** "If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No."

Paul didn't think that things would continually **improve** in this dispensation. Instead he believed that perilous times were coming.

- **2 Timothy 3:1:** "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."