

A Virtuous Woman Proverbs 31:10-31

Intro: *Many NT passages teach what a wife & mother should be.*

- A. Notice these
 - 1. **Eph. 5:22, 1 Ptr 3:1-4, Titus 2:3-5**
 - 2. All these are great, but I believe the description of a godly woman comes in **Prov. 31**.
- B. King Lemuel begins this portion with words learned from his mother.
 - 1. She taught him that kings are to be clear-headed & benevolent
 - a. Queen mothers apparently had great influence
 - 2. As Lem reminisces about the wise things of his mother, he seems to realize what a wonderful woman she was.
 - a. He exclaims, ***“An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.”*** (Vs 10)
 - b. As he waxes poetic about the ideal woman, we too realize the worth of a woman of this character.
- C. As we take this day to honor mothers, women who have shaped our lives, let’s reflect on this picture Lem gives us.
 - 1. Tho it is the “ideal” woman, it is a picture of what ALL women, mothers or not, should strive to be.
 - 2. It’s not a bad model for some men, either!

I. She is trustworthy - Vss 11-12

- A. Her husband knows things are in good hands.
 - 1. *“In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.”*
1 Pet 3:1-2
- B. A woman who can show her trustworthiness can have much influence over her husband.

II. She is hardworking - Vss 13-18

- A. She’s enterprising & uses her God-given smarts to make wise decisions. - **Vs 14, 16**
- B. Knowing her role is important she *“rises while it is still night”*
 - 1. I remember my own mother always rising early & making sure we were fed & ready for the day
 - 2. Hurt feelings, bloody knees find comfort in her!
- C. She’s well organized - **Vs 15**
 - 1. Whether to servant or her children, she is a wise delegator.
 - 2. She believes *“diligence is a precious possession”* Prov. 12:27
- D. She takes pride in what she does - **Vss 13, 18**
 - 1. Mom always said, *“A good job or bad job takes the same amount of time. Might as well do it right!”*
 - 2. No complaining, just a job well done!

III. She is unselfish and benevolent - Vss 19-21

- A. She makes sure that the family has what it needs.
 - 1. Many mothers will go without so that family can have not only necessities but something they can be proud of.
 - 2. She looks to the future with confidence knowing that she does what she can to help her family.
- B. Her benevolence reaches beyond her immediate family
Vss 19-20
 - 1. This conveys the idea of her *reaching out* to help.
 - 2. Going out of her way even to doing the work herself.
 - a. *“Do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”* Heb 13:16

IV. She is respected - Vss 23-27

- A. **Vs 23** - She doesn’t do anything to shame her husband & it helps his integrity as well.
 - 1. Have heard stories of good men brought down by sinful wives & children.

B. Her speech is becoming of her - **Vs 26**

1. *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment so that it will give grace to those who hear.” Eph 4:29*
2. Her words have an influence on all who listen: Friends & family - No doubt she speaks **“the truth in love”**

C. She dresses in the best apparel - Strength & honor - **Vs 25**

1. No flashy skimpy clothes to “make a statement.”
 - a. *“Your adornment must not be merely external - braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.” 1 Ptr. 3:3-4*

V. Her family realizes her value - Vss 28-29

- A. Can't be measured in \$\$ value - **Vs 10**
- B. She does what she does because she loves her family & they know it!

VI. The root of her worth - Vss 30-31

- A. Love & reverence for God is at the root of all she does.
 1. *“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” Col 3:23-24*
- B. Her life is not an easy one.
 1. Calls forth all her energy, determination & strength.
 2. This is truly a woman who is beautiful, true beauty from within comes forth.
 3. This is a beauty that most of the world does not see, but it lasts longer than any makeup or eye-shadow!
 4. The man who finds a woman like this is rich indeed.
 5. The children with a mother like this have inspiration & love like no where else in this world!

Conc: *The Proverbs 31 woman has characteristics that should be in ALL God's people, male or female.*

- A. As we honor the women among us today, let us look inside & find ways to apply these characteristics to ourselves.
- B. Let the love & respect you have for the Lord be your motivation.