

“Proverbs 31 Women: Simply the Best!”

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Scripture

Proverbs 31:10-31

“An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil - All the days of her life.”

13She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight. She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens.

16She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle.

20She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy.

21She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.

24She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies belts to the tradesmen.

25Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.

26She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

27She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:

29"Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

31Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”

In Praise of Mothers

Not everyone has a Mom, but everyone had a Mother

Proverbs 31:10-31 is the hope for a mother to find the wife for her son

22 verses, each starting with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet

This is the high point for every woman in God's eyes

Ladies, how do you rate against this standard?

Men, how do you rate in valuing your wife?

She Has Great Worth in Marriage

Proverbs 31:10-12

“An excellent wife, **who can find?** For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of **her husband trusts in her**, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil - All the days of her life.”

The godly wife is a treasure -> great value

Husbands, do you think your bride is a treasure?

Who can find? -> she's a rare treasure -> not very common

When you find one -> hold on to her tightly

Proverbs 18:22

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.”

She is a blessing to her husband

Wives, do you think you are a blessing?

“her husband trusts in her” -> She is trusted completely by her husband

She does not need micromanaging or overt, strong arming control

Proverbs 12:4

“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones.”

The crown is a joyful one -> great joy comes to the husband with an excellent wife

“She does him good and not evil - All the days of her life” -> she is faithful, throughout the marriage

She seeks the best interest for her husband -> caring and meeting his needs, being that calm voice in his ear

She is a Provider and Diligent Worker

Proverbs 31:13-15

“She looks for wool and flax and **works with her hands in delight**. She is **like merchant ships**; she brings her food from afar. **She rises also while it is still night** and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens.”

An excellent mother always provides for her family

“Looks for wool and flax and works with her hands” -> she provided clothing for her family

She is a diligent worker for the family

“She is like merchant ships” -> she brings home food and supplies for the family

“She rises also while it is still night” -> her care for the family is secondary to the care for herself

Preparation of food required an early morning start in Biblical times -> before dawn was the norm

“in delight” -> she had great joy in this task -> her love shown to her family fulfilled her purpose

“portions to her maidens” -> Her care extended to other workers in her household

She says, “no one will go hungry on my watch”

She is an Investor

Not only is she a hard worker but she's also an investor

Proverbs 31:16-19

“She **considers a field and buys it**; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. She **girds herself with strength** and makes her arms strong. She **senses that her gain is good**; Her lamp does not go out at night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle.”

She is shrewd in her review of opportunity

“She considers a field and buys it” -> she is observant and focused on a deal

“From her earnings she plants a vineyard” -> she reinvests profits into other enterprises

“senses that her gain is good” -> She is good with money and investing -> she seeks profit and reinvests

She invests in her children, teaching them excellent money management

“girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong” -> she invests in herself, also

She is a strong woman -> not a feeble, self-focused, trophy wife

1 Peter 3:3-4

“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.**”

In a world so focused on outward presentation, true beauty is on the inside

It may be a Kardashian world, but the Lord's kingdom is not that way

The inside is precious to God and should be precious to her husband

“lamp does not go out at night” -> she was up early and up late at night

“stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle” -> making clothing

She had to be strong -> up early preparing food, planting a vineyard during the day, weaving clothes at night

She is Respected by All

The overflow of her care for her family impacted others -> in the entire community

Proverbs 31:20-24

“She **extends her hand to the poor**, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for **all her household are clothed with scarlet**. She makes coverings for herself; **Her**

clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies belts to the tradesmen."

"extends her hand to the poor" -> "stretches out her palm" to the less fortunate -> extreme kindness

While providing for her family, she would make more than they needed to bless others

She took meals to the poor and those who could not care for themselves

"She is not afraid of the snow for her household" -> she makes sure her family is dressed appropriately

Warm clothing provided in winter -> protective clothing in summer against the heat of the sun

"Her clothing is fine linen and purple" -> she ensures that she is dressed appropriately and well

She dresses modestly and gracefully, not to draw attention to herself

She is blessed by her husband and God to wear purple and scarlet clothing -> colours of drapery -> tabernacle

"Her husband is known in the gates" -> Her husband is respected because of her character

His reputation is greatly enhanced because of his wife's diligence

Harold McMillan wrote:

"No man succeeds without a good woman behind him. Wife or mother: if it is both he is twice blessed indeed"

Behind every great man stands no woman. There is no greater man than the man that can acknowledge the woman standing right next to him.

"It is a true partnership between a man and a woman, working together in mutual service to each other and to the community that exemplifies the excellent marriage."

Husbands, do you view your wife as a true partner in life and ministry?

Wives, do you feel that your husband values you as a true partner in life and ministry?

"makes linen garments and sells them" -> She is an entrepreneur

Not only does she make extra food for the poor, but she also makes extra clothing to sell

She makes high quality garments that could be sold in a store

She consistently looks to add value to the household's income

She Exudes Worthy Character

Proverbs 31:25-27

"**Strength and dignity** are her clothing, and **she smiles at the future**. She **opens her mouth in wisdom**, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and **does not eat the bread of idleness**."

"Strength and dignity" -> she is reverent to the Lord -> she has great assurance of her place

"she smiles at the future" -> her trust in the Lord allows her to be sure of her future

She knows she will be taken care of here on earth and into eternity

“opens her mouth in wisdom” -> wisdom is the skill in living -> she is a teacher of her children about the Lord

“teaching of kindness is on her tongue” -> kindness is a word of action -> she teaches in word and deed

She is merciful to others in need -> her actions back up her words

She not only thinks about reaching out to others, but she plans it, acts on it, and teaches from it

“does not eat the bread of idleness” -> she’s always doing something

Literally, this means “eyes looking everywhere” -> always focused on things she can do for others

She is Praised by Her Family

Proverbs 31:28-31

“Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

31 Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”

The pinnacle of her achievement is to have her family praise her

“Her children rise up and bless her” -> the children speak about their mother in glowing terms

“Her husband also” -> The chorus of praise extends to her husband

“you excel them all” -> Not only is she valued in thought, he opens his mouth to his friends and peers

Her recognizes the great treasure he has and promotes her worth

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain” -> True worth is internal

“a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised” -> a godly woman draws great praise

Prayer for Wives and Mothers

Recognition

Benediction