

When a Woman Fears God
Proverbs 31:10-31
May 10, 2015

Introduction

King Lemuel's mother instructs her son to seek out the best woman because this woman will bring him joy and will bring him honor. She is imparting Godly wisdom to her son that he would take it to heart and follow her sayings. She does warn him that a godly woman is hard to find but the reward is far beyond the most expensive jewels and metals.

Proverbs 31:10 *A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.*

Proverbs 19:14 *Houses and wealth are inherited from parents,
but a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

For a man to find such a woman is a gift from the Lord. This is a woman that is far beyond her outer beauty. Her inner character shines through in such a blaze that her husband and her family cherish her. In fact, that honor reaches into the high places where her husband is respected at the city gates!

Too often men choose women based on looks or prestige, and when they do so, they usually end up regretting such choices because their outer looks are marred by their inner ugliness. These are women that do not fear God. Solomon warns us of such women in Proverbs.

Proverbs 21:9 *Better to live on a corner of the roof
than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.*

Proverbs 21:19 *Better to live in a desert
than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.*

Proverbs 27:15-16

15 *A quarrelsome wife is like
a constant dripping on a rainy day;
16 *restraining her is like restraining the wind
or grasping oil with the hand.**

The opposite of such worthless women (in Solomon's and men's eyes) is a woman who is of noble character.

Proverbs 31:11-12

11 *Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.
12 *She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.**

This woman of noble character starts with her fear of God. The woman presented in **Proverbs 31** is the ideal woman that God has created to be the helpmate for her husband. Christian women do not start out this way, but with God's help she can become one. We see her spiritual maturity, her character and her hard work.

I. Her Spiritual Maturity

- Submissive and devoted to her husband

Proverbs 31:12 *She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.*

- She is consumed in performing to her husband's best interest
- She wants her husband to be joyful and happy
- She wants her husband to be the man that God calls him to be
- Brings him not harm
 - To provide protection for her husband
 - To confront him of his sins

1 Peter 3:5-6 *For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

- All the days of her life
 - Good or bad times
- Cares for those in need

Proverbs 31:20 *She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.*

- Personally gets involved with those in need—knows their needs and provides for them

James 1:27 *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

1 John 3:16 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

- Consistent character

Proverbs 31:25 *She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.*

- Her spiritual commitment allows her not to worry about the future
- She trusts in God and lives for God
- Teaches Scripture

Proverbs 31:26 *She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

- Law of kindness—grace
- Through her actions and instructions, she imparts compassion and mercy
- Fears the Lord

Proverbs 31:30 *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

- Her whole being starts and ends with the fear of God
- This is the reason for her behavior, God is always before her

II. Her Strength of Character

- Trustworthy

Proverbs 31:11-12

11 *Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.*

12 *She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.*

- Most important aspect of relationship—trust
- She is concerned about her husband's resources as her own
- He is not going to worry about losing what he has earned
- She continually builds him up—she will not shame him in public

Proverbs 12:4 *An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.*

- She protects her husband

Proverbs 31:23 *Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.*

- Productive and wise

- She is a homemaker—ruler of the house

Proverbs 31:27 *She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

- Provided clothing
 - Made beautiful clothes for family
 - Made clothes for winter
 - Made clothes for sale

Proverbs 31:21-22, 24

21 *When it snows, she has no fear for her household;
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.*

22 *She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.*

24 *She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.*

- Provided meals
 - Gets up before dawn

Proverbs 31:15 *She gets up while it is still dark;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her servant girls.*

- Very skilled in money management
 - Will take advantage of distant opportunities and make money

Proverbs 31:14 *She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.*

- Buys land to convert to vineyards

Proverbs 31:16 *She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.*

III. Her Hard Work

Proverbs 12:24 *Diligent hands will rule,
but laziness ends in slave labor.*

- Work long hours

Proverbs 31:15, 18

15 *She gets up while it is still dark;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her servant girls.*

18 *She sees that her trading is profitable,
and her lamp does not go out at night.*

- Vigorous---active work

Proverbs 31:17 *She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.*

- Not idle

Proverbs 31:27 *She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

- Enjoys her work...is delighted by her work

Proverbs 31:13 *She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.*

Coram Deo

Proverbs 31:28-31

28 *Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:*

29 *"Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all."*

30 *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

31 *Give her the reward she has earned,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

When a woman fears God and does what He says, He will bless her. He will cause her family to praise her. Children rise up and call her blessed—this carries the idea that the children and their children recognize the impact that this godly woman had in their lives. More importantly is the husband declaring to the world of his deep and loving appreciation for his wife.

There is also a lesson for us men. We are to praise our wives and mothers for their godliness and their fear of the Lord. We are to see them as a gift from God. As women, let this **Proverbs 31** woman be a mirror for you as you strive to be the person that God wants you to be. God is saying that it is possible for a woman to become such a noble character; otherwise, He would not have said so.