

“The Virtuous Mother”

Proverbs 31:10-31

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Introduction: Things my Mother taught me:

- 1) My Mom taught me to appreciate a job well done. “If you’re going to kill each other, do it outside- I just finished cleaning.”
- 2) My Mom taught me foresight. “Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you’re in an accident.”
- 3) My Mom taught me about weather. “It looks as if a tornado swept through your room.”
- 4) My Mom taught me about taking responsibility for my actions. “If you fall out of that tree and break both legs, don’t come running to me!”

*** I want to honor our mothers today by taking a look at Proverbs 31.**

*** Proverbs 31 is the wise words of a mother for her son.**

- (v. 1) The words of King Lemuel; the prophecy that his mother taught him.
- Who was King Lemuel, and who was his mother?

*** It’s a wonderful thing when a mother can give her sons and daughters wise counsel.**

*** Proverbs 31 is a “prayer for her son” and a “pattern for her daughters.”**

- Herbert Locker- “*Christian mothers are the world’s greatest asset. The greatest human influence. The most wholesome and substantial contribution to human society comes from our mothers.*”

*** She warns her son in verses 1-9 to:**

- 1) Watch out for women (v. 3)
- 2) Stay away from wine (v. 4)

*** Now she gives her son in verses 10-31 the ABC’s of what kind of women to look for when choosing a wife!**

- The second most important decision you will ever make in life!

*** The woman this mother tells her son to look for is called:**

- (v. 10) “virtuous”
- It means “of noble character” or “a woman of excellence”
- Two things about this woman:
 - “She’s hard to find” (v. 10) “who can find”

- “Her price is far above rubies (v. 10)
 - She is “rare” and “valuable”
 - Proverbs 18:22- “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favour of the Lord.”
 - Proverbs 19:14- “...a prudent wife is from the Lord.”

* Proverbs 12:4- “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.”

- She’s the kind of woman whose children rise up and call her “blessed.” “Her husband also praiseth her.” (v. 28)
- Illustration- Ruth- the only woman in the Old Testament called “virtuous.”
 - Ruth 3:11- “All the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.”

* So, what kind of woman is she?

I. She’s a Help to her Husband (v.v. 11-12)

* (v. 11) Motherhood starts with marriage (Marriage is God’s idea; Genesis 2)

- The three building blocks for marriage:
 - 1) “Leave your father and mother;” “Severance”
 - 2) “Cleave unto his wife;” “Permanence”
 - 3) “They shall be one flesh;” “Intimacy”

* Wives, make your marriage a priority!

- Be submissive and supportive of your husband
 - Ephesians 5:22-24

* (v. 11) “She’s trustworthy”

- (v. 12) “She’s supportive”
- Ephesians 5:33- “...the wife see that she respects her husband.”
- (v. 28) “Her husband praiseth her”

II. She’s a Hardworking Homemaker (v.v. 13-25)

* (v. 27) “She watches over the affairs of her household”

- “She gives full attention to her household”
- “She eateth not the bread of idleness”

* Note how hard she works:

- 1) (v. 15) “She gets up early”
- 2) (v. 13 & 19) “She sows”
- 3) (v. 14) “She shops”
- 4) (v. 15b) “She feeds the household”
- 5) (v. 16 & 24) “She’s enterprising”
- 6) (v. 18) “She’s the last one to bed”
- 7) (v. 20) “She’s compassionate and benevolent”
- 8) (v. 21) “She makes preparations for her family”
- 9) (v. 22) “She is well dressed”
- 10) (v. 25) “She has dignity and joyful confidence”

* Proverbs 14:1- “Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucks it down with her hands.”

- * Moms, do you make your home a priority?
 - The virtuous woman has a “servant’s heart.”
 - Illustration- John 13

III. She Uses her Mouth for Good (v. 26)

* We move from her “busy hands” to her “blessed mouth.”

* Two things happen when she opens her mouth:

- 1) “Her words are wise” (v. 26)
 - a. Why? Because she knows the Bible!
 - b. Illustration- Hannah and Mary
- 2) “Her words are kind” (v. 26)
 - a. Because she’s filled with the Holy Spirit!
 - b. Illustration- Ephesians 5:18
 - c. Ephesians 4- “Let no corrupt communication...and grieve not the Holy Spirit of God...”
 - d. Use your words to:
 - i. Pray
 - ii. Praise
 - iii. Proclaim
 - iv. Instruct your children and grandchildren

IV. She’s Devoted to her Children (v.v. 27-29)

* (v. 28) “Her children arise up and call her blessed”

- * Psalms 127:3- “Lo children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from Him.”
 - Psalms 127:4- “They are like arrows in a warrior’s hands. How joyful is the man or woman whose quiver is full of them.”
- * Think of the impact for good you can have through your children!
 - Illustration- Jochebed —Moses
 - Hannah—Samuel
 - Elizabeth—John the Baptist
 - Grandmother and Mother, Lois and Eunice—Timothy
 - Mary—the Mother of Jesus

III. She’s a Woman that Fears the Lord (v. 30-31)

- * This is the secret and source of her virtue.
- * (v. 30) “charm is deceptive” and “beauty does not last”
 - It’s passing!
 - Illustration- 1 Peter 3:3-4- “Who’s adorning let it...”

CONCLUSION

- * **So, she:**
 - 1) Knows the Lord (saved)**
 - 2) Loves the Lord (seeking)**
 - 3) Lives for the Lord (serving)**