

LESSON ONE

Class 1 & 2

Finding a Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:10: *“Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.”*

We learn in the 31st chapter of Proverbs that it isn't an easy task to be a virtuous woman. It takes a lot of time and effort for a woman to become the example that this woman is, as daily she goes about her life taking care of herself and her entire household, whether it is just her family in the household, or whether it includes servants and extended members of her family. We do see from the content that this woman had members in her household that obviously didn't include her husband and children, as they are, at times, mentioned separately.

While the aim of the virtuous woman was not to bring praise upon her own self, we are able to see throughout the chapter, beginning in verse 10, that the

many things the virtuous woman did brought praise to her from among the people that knew her, which in turn, brought glory to God.

How would you describe the word virtuous? Most would say that it is having good morals, but from what we read in these passages, it goes way past our morals into each and every aspect of our lives – from, how we spend our time and money, to how we act and speak, and further how we care for our families and others in need. Would we not apply Matthew 5:8 to this woman?

In Proverbs 31:10 it is noted that finding a virtuous woman is such a rarity that her worth is far above rubies. We are not left with the visual impression that the scantily clad woman who has a cigarette hanging from her lips while using profanity as she boisterously talks with others, is even a tiny bit virtuous, or to be perceived as a jewel of any kind. We are also not left with the impression that this is, in any way, pleasing to God.

Some may ask why the bible stresses a woman's virtues more than a man's.

Perhaps the reason that there is a chapter in the bible that is devoted to the virtues of a woman, and not a similar one regarding the man, is that woman was created to be man's helper, not the other way around. Without a virtuous wife, a man cannot become an elder or deacon in the church.

Also, by her virtuous nature, she helps the man to have a good attitude and make good decisions. He will increasingly value her for this, reminding him of her “meek and quiet spirit” (1st Peter 3:3-4) which is, in the sight of God of great price, and one that can, simultaneously, teach man... and amusingly he won't even realize it.

Questions:

1. Are there any women that you know, or have known in the past, that you can look to as virtuous? Who are they? Why?
2. When you are around them, how do they make you feel?
3. In contrast, are there women that you can recall who immediately bring up a picture that makes you want to work extra hard to NOT be like them? Explain.

4. How do they make you feel when you are around them?

5. Between the two types of women, which type do you want people to see when they look at you? Why?

6. If what you do can cause your daughter to behave in a manner that others see her as virtuous, would you do what it takes to make that happen? What would that be?

Discussion time:

Why do you suppose that women were addressed in a specific way in Proverbs and within 22 verses were urged and taught to be virtuous, while men are not addressed in the same manner and given equal time and space pertaining to their own virtues?

Homework:

What do you want to gain from this study? Be ready to share your thoughts with others next class.

Notes:

LESSON TWO

Class 3 & 4

*Her Husband's
Trust in Her*

Proverbs 31:11-12: *"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no lack of gain [need of spoil]. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."*

A picture is painted in verse 11 of a woman who will stand behind or beside her husband, giving him the support that he needs in going out into the cruel world to make a living for his family. She will not berate his job or the way he chooses to do it, as long as it does not go against God's teachings. If it does, she will gently and in submission speak to him about it and not nag, deride, or shame him into changing, but will, with her love and devotion, cause him to WANT to change.

If she can do anything to help him, she will. If he doesn't want her to be involved she will stand back

and let him be the man that he wants to be, and because she follows his lead and doesn't interfere with his wishes, he has an assurance and trust in their lives that further motivates him to do even more (Eph. 5:24).

There is no limit on what he can gain both emotionally, spiritually and materially when she is an asset to him in the ways that he wants her to be. He will consider her a *worthy woman*, one that he would gladly die for, if necessary. (Ephesians 5:25 – "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...*")

When a man works hard, his income should be respected and not wasted on foolish things, but put to the best use possible, supplying the family with those things that are needful for the sustenance of a healthy and happy life. Husbands, who safely trust in their wives to use his earnings wisely, will be men who are not afraid to put them in charge of the family budget. One friend said, "Some women can throw more out the back door than their husbands can bring in the front." This kind of attitude will not make a happy husband, or one who can sleep well at night.

"*Not doing evil*" as stated in verse 12, goes really deep in my heart. Let's say that if I am in a salon getting my hair done or having lunch with a group of girlfriends, or any other contact with the public, and the subject is husbands who are pretty much *jerks* [not abusers], I should refrain myself from joining in to the

conversation with my husband's *jerky ways*.

If I have the proper respect for him, I won't be telling things that would offend or embarrass him for it to be public knowledge. I'm not talking about a humorous story, but a fault or imperfection in him or something that he did or said that was really ridiculous – and we all know they do these things from time to time, if not on a regular basis.

Also, if we are with him in a group of people anywhere and he makes a mistake we should not correct him there, but wait until we are alone, as with any brother or sister. If he is telling a story and chooses to embellish it a bit, from his own way of thinking or his poor memory, should we not just keep quiet and refresh his memory when we get home?

Rolling our eyes at things he may do or say while in a public setting, or arguing with him over non-important subjects, unless a discussion is going on where everyone is free to give their opinions on a subject, is demeaning to him and futile to the benefit of any good that may otherwise come from our relationship.

If he is a Christian, then we definitely don't want to leave an impression with people of the world that his *light* is dim, and that he is perhaps not the kind of example that others should follow. What we know to be true, and what others perceive as cause to distrust his character, is not necessarily the same thing. He may be

one of the best men around, but we could unintentionally cause people to think he is not the kind of Christian that he should be and unworthy to be called a role model to others who would otherwise look up to him and listen to his counsel.

If he is not a Christian, we should not give him any reason to fear being in a public place with us because we may embarrass him or give him one more excuse to not become a Christian. Let his own actions judge him while in public, and we won't have to.

He should always have the security and trust in our actions and our speech that he will not be made to look bad while in public, or have any shadow cast on his manhood, or, as is the expression today, his machoism.

Notes:

This is a sample of the material contained in
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