

May 13, 2018

A Virtuous Woman

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In honoring the women in the congregation today for Mothers Day, we find what the bible has to say regarding a virtuous woman. This is a familiar passage of scripture to people who are studying in relationship to the womens role, whether they are in the office of a teacher, pastor or just gaining knowledge for themselves. There have been many great women in the past with strong testimonies of their lives and that of their families. Women fill many different kinds of roles, whether they are single and raising a family, or married and helping their husbands. Many work outside the home or are home schooling their children, there is no doubt that all are considerably busy with their lives and that of their families, still finding time to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

The following scriptures give us the definition of what is considered to be a virtuous woman, the verses are broken into segments in order for there to be comment on each of them. Virtuous comes from a Hebrew word meaning might, strength, honesty, valiant, powerful, capable, riches in substance and wealthy. She is so precious and valuable that it would exhaust the Hebrew language to describe her. She is not standing on every street corner, she is just not every place, but she is there. She develops and grows into a virtuous woman, it is a spiritual principle, not starting out that way, but she grows into it as she follows the Lord. There will be growth during this year for all the women, they will not be what they are today if they become doers of the word following after Jesus.

This message is to build up all the women as to who they are and young men who are looking for a wife should look at these attributes regarding a virtuous wife. During this time in history, women were not treated as they are today, they were only considered to be chattel, not having any place in society.

Pro 31:10-31 "Who could ever find a wife like this one - she is a woman of strength and mighty valor! She's full of wealth and wisdom. The price paid for her was greater than many jewels. 11 Her husband has entrusted his heart to her, for she brings him the rich spoils of victory. 12 All

throughout her life she brings him what is good and not evil. 13 She searches out continually to possess that which is pure and righteous. She delights in the work of her hands. 14 She gives out revelation-truth[h] to feed others. She is like a trading ship bringing divine supplies from the merchant. 15 Even in the night season she arises and sets food on the table for hungry ones in her house and for others. 16 She sets her heart upon a nation and takes it as her own, carrying it within her. She labors there to plant the living vines. 17 She wraps herself in strength, might, and power in all her works. 18 She tastes and experiences a better substance, and her shining light will not be extinguished, no matter how dark the night. 19 She stretches out her hands to help the needy and she lays hold of the wheels of government. 20 She is known by her extravagant generosity to the poor, for she always reaches out her hands to those in need. 21 She is not afraid of tribulation, for all her household is covered in the dual garments of righteousness and grace. 22 Her clothing is beautifully knit together—a purple gown of exquisite linen. 23 Her husband is famous and admired by all, sitting as the venerable judge of his people. 24 Even her works of righteousness she does for the benefit of her enemies. 25 Bold power and glorious majesty are wrapped around her as she laughs with joy over the latter days. 26 Her teachings are filled with wisdom and kindness as loving instruction pours from her lips. 27 She watches over the ways of her household and meets every need they have. 28 Her sons and daughters arise in one accord to extol her virtues, and her husband arises to speak of her in glowing terms. 29 “There are many valiant and noble ones, but you have ascended above them all!” 30 Charm can be misleading, and beauty is vain and so quickly fades, but this virtuous woman lives in the wonder, awe, and fear of the Lord. She will be praised throughout eternity. 31 So go ahead and give her the credit that is due, for she has become a radiant woman, and all her loving works of righteousness deserve to be admired at the gateways of every city! " TPT

Pro. 31:10-31 "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. 13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. 14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. 15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. 19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. 22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. 24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. 25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. 30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is

vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." KJV

v. 10 "Who could ever find a wife like this one—she is a woman of strength and mighty valor!She's full of wealth and wisdom. The price paid for her was greater than many jewels."Her husband has entrusted his heart to her, for she brings him the rich spoils of victory." TPT

Whatever the price paid for her, she is worth more than that, no price can be put on her, she is priceless. Men must be unselfish with them and be good to them. The strength of the virtuous women is something she grows into, producing more fruit of the spirit, it is because of the relationship that she has with the Lord Jesus Christ.

v. 11-12 "The heart of her husband trusts in her confidently and relies on and believes in her securely, so that he has no lack of [honest] gain or need of [dishonest] spoil. 12 She comforts, encourages, and does him only good as long as there is life within her." AMP

v. 11-12 "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." KJV

Trust means in all things; money, mouth or words, morals. There are many ways of trust, always having his best interest in her heart. She will encourage her husband, encouragement is something that her husband desires and wants to hear her say to him.

v. 13 "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands." KJV

v. 13 "She seeks out wool and flax and works with willing hands [to develop it]" AMP

This woman is not lazy, wool speaks of purity and flax is righteousness. She is pure and standing in the righteousness of God, she knows who she is in Jesus.

v. 14 "She gives out revelation-truth to feed others. She is like a trading ship bringing divine supplies from the merchant." TPT

v. 14 "She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. ' KJV

Merchants ships pickup items from another country and bring it to where the people are located. She is like that ship getting revelation knowledge from other countries and from her relationship with Jesus and she brings spiritual food into her own household. She is strength in control.

v. 15 "She rises while it is yet night and gets [spiritual] food for her household and assigns her maids their tasks." AMP

She begins to pray and intercede for her household and is able to get everything accomplished for the day because of her relationship with Jesus. She receives wisdom from Jesus that enables her to assign the different jobs to her servants. When we put Jesus first, He gives us the ability to complete everything that we need to get done. We move out of our limited area of the flesh into the ability and wisdom of God. This woman is a praying woman.

v. 16 "She considers a [new] field before she buys or accepts it [expanding prudently and not courting neglect of her present duties by assuming other duties]; with her savings [of time and strength] she plants fruitful vines in her vineyard." AMP

She apparently has a head for business and is able to extract wealth for her family. The plan of God is always increase, but she does not neglect her duties and does not take on extra duties, her home is her priority not the business she is involved with, she is prudent and wise, able to save time and strength and continues to plant spiritual seed.

v. 17-18 "She girds herself with strength [spiritual, mental, and physical fitness for her God-given task] and makes her arms strong and firm. 18 She tastes and sees that her gain from work [with and for God] is good; her lamp goes not out, but it burns on continually through the night [of trouble, privation, or sorrow, warning away fear, doubt, and distrust]." AMP

v. 17-18 "She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night." KJV

This is not referring to her using devices in order to gain strength, but means that she is spending time with Jesus. She is strong spiritually, her soul is strong and she stays in shape physically making herself strong. Her work for God is good, she has challenging times but she knows that she doing a good work whether in business or home. In the nighttime she doesn't give up, she keeps on believing God, keeps walking in faith becoming victorious.

v. 19-20 "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." KJV

v. 19-20 "She stretches out her hands to help the needy and she lays hold of the wheels of government. 20 She is known by her extravagant generosity to the poor, for she always reaches out her hands to those in need." TPT

v. 20-21 "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet." KJV

She is generous to the poor, giving whenever there is a need, she has enough to help at any time, she never looks down on the poor. Many successful people are generous people, are givers. She is a giver not a hoarder because of the blessings of the Lord she has a storehouse, she is not afraid of the snow, is able to provide for all her household with whatever they may be needing. She is prepared when trouble comes.

Gods plan was that there never be poor any more for the children of Israel when they went in to possess the land, having come from a place of poverty, but there would be poor people because they would not pay attention or have knowledge to what He wanted for them. God wants us to go to the place where our needs are met.

v. 22 "She makes for herself coverlets, cushions, and rugs of tapestry. Her clothing is of linen, pure and fine, and of purple [such as that of which the clothing of the priests and the hallowed cloths of the temple were made]. ' AMP

v. 23 "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." KJV

v. 23 "Her husband is famous and admired by all, sitting as the venerable judge of his people." TPT

She and her family are clothed with the finest and all their needs are met, her husband is well known because of her abilities.

v. 24-25 "She makes fine linen garments and leads others to buy them; she delivers to the merchants girdles [or sashes that free one up for service]. 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure; she rejoices over the future [the latter day or time to come, knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it]!" AMP

She looks forward to the future because of her ability to provide for others, strength and dignity are her clothing and she is strong and secure, knowing that her family is ready for whatever comes their way.

v. 26 "She opens her mouth in skillful and godly Wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness [giving counsel and instruction]. ' AMP

v. 26 "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." KJV

v. 26 "Her teachings are filled with wisdom and kindness as loving instruction pours from her lips." TPT

v. 27 "She looks well to how things go in her household, and the bread of idleness (gossip,

discontent, and self-pity) she will not eat." AMP

She has wisdom and kindness, she is loving in her instruction and keeps her home as a priority. She is refuses to be idle or partake of those bad qualities that comes from being idle.

v. 28 "Her children rise up and call her blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied); and her husband boasts of and praises her, [saying]," AMP

v. 28 "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." KJV

v. 28 "Her sons and daughters arise in one accord to extol her virtues, and her husband arises to speak of her in glowing terms." TPT

Her children and her husband all praise her for her good qualities. They recognize the treasure that they have in her.

v. 29 "Many daughters have done virtuously, nobly, and well [with the strength of character that is steadfast in goodness], but you excel them all." AMP

v. 29 "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all." KJV

There are many examples in the bible regarding women who were outstanding in their lives, Ruth and Esther are examples, but this virtuous woman was greater than them all.

v. 30 "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." KJV

v. 30 "Charm can be misleading, and beauty is vain and so quickly fades, but this virtuous woman lives in the wonder, awe, and fear of the Lord. She will be praised throughout eternity." TPT

v. 30 "Charm and grace are deceptive, and beauty is vain [because it is not lasting], but a woman who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord, she shall be praised!" AMP

This virtuous woman will be praised because of her worship and reverence to the Lord. Teaching the younger woman how to be virtuous.

v. 31 "Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates [of the city]!" AMP

v. 31 "Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." KJV

v. 31 "So go ahead and give her the credit that is due, for she has become a radiant woman, and all

her loving works of righteousness deserve to be admired at the gateways of every city!" TPT

Women, mothers and wives have been honored today because of the untiring and unselfish support that has been given to their husbands and families. There are not enough words to describe the "virtuous" woman and the role that she plays in everyones life.