

Sermon Notes from Pastor Cornelius Schelling 5-10-09

The Virtuous Woman

Part 1

In Proverbs 31:10-31 the Bible tells us what is a virtuous woman. This tells us how God sees his created woman. Every woman should strive for this in her life, in her personal life, in her appearance, in her family life, and in her daily duties.

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

Lets look at verse one. These are the words of king Lemuel which his mother taught him. So this is not only for the ladies but also the men. She taught her son what he ought to look for in a woman.

Verse 10 Who can find a virtuous woman?

The word "virtuous" is from a noun meaning strength, efficiency, ability. Here it refers to strength of character, spiritual and moral strength, steadfastness, and firmness.

The first part of verse 10 literally reads, "Who can find a woman of spiritual and moral strength, efficiency and ability?"

Ruth 3:11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

Everyone in the city knew that she was a virtuous woman! When a woman has strength of character (fears God, loves truth, hates sin), then others will take note and recognize this. It will be very obvious because it is so unusual.

People are usually so morally weak and so anemic in character, that when a man or woman of strength shows up it is quite evident to all.

Proverbs 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

This woman of spiritual and moral strength, efficiency and ability does not make her husband ashamed.

Notice the second part she is far more precious than jewels, and her value is far above rubies.

For her price is far above rubies

She is far more valuable and worth far more than rubies. She is like a rare gem because they are so rare.

If you could go out along the roadside and collect hundreds of rubies anytime you wanted to, then they would not be worth much.

It is the hard to find gems that are worth so much. Most common stones are unattractive; yet most rare stones are beautiful.

Sometimes my wife looks at jewelry when were in the mall and says look at that one and you ask the price and it's always the most expensive one.

The virtuous woman is a beautiful woman, not necessarily outwardly, but certainly inwardly look at verse 30. She is not only a rare gem but a beautiful gem.

Verse 11. She manages the home well and her efforts result in great gain and even profit.

Sadly some wives today are so slothful and careless that they cause the family to suffer great financial loss. They go on shopping sprees or incur immense credit card debt or waste countless hours each week engaged in unproductive activities like watching TV or spend all their time on the computer or play video games or watch movies.

Instead of cleaning the house or maybe teaching their kids to pick up cloths and put them in a proper

place instead of letting them pile in corner some where and never wash them instead keep buying new one because they don't have any thing to wear.

How can her husband safely trust in her? After she has finished destroying the family budget because she is slothful, she has to buy ever gadget in sight her kids got to have the best or maybe she gambles, drinks, does drugs, now he has great need of gain considering all that she has lost!

Verse 12 She will do him good, and not evil

Will do—A primitive root; to *treat* a person well , that is, *benefit to serve*, yield.

The virtuous woman gives to her husband what is good. She serves him what is good and not evil. She wants only God's highest and best for him. Her life and her deeds are a continual benefit and blessing to her husband.

She sets the highest standard possible for her husband and for her children.

Notice All the days of her life she doing good to her husband she is faithful, persistent and consistent. She doesn't serve what is good one day and that which is evil the next day. Her husband can count on her to do him good and to be a blessing to him.

He can count on her to do this today, five days from now, one year from now, ten years from now, and all the days of her life.

She is not up and down, she is not on a emotional roller coaster. Her godliness is marked with faithfulness and consistency.

Verse 13 She carefully selects the best wool and flax that she will use in making clothes for her household.

And worketh willingly with her hands

The word "willingly" is from the word meaning "delight, pleasure."

She takes great delight in her work. She enjoys serving her husband she enjoys cleaning the house, sewing, taking care of the children she enjoys cooking the meals.

Col 3:17 And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Verse 14 She is seeking to provide food for her family.

Verse 15 She is up before the sun, showing that idleness and laziness have no place with her (compare verse 27).

One of the reasons she rises up so early is to provide food for her household. When the father and children get up they are greeted with a hearty, home-cooked breakfast!

Most young women don't know how to cook or know how to do the laundry or even clean the house. Many families eat out or order food that can be brought into the home today. Many families don't take the time to sit down together and eat together as a family.

This women was blessed with a large household that included female maids or servants. She did not live in poverty.

This women even took a part of her food and prepared it for the maids and servants.

Verse 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it.

She talked this over with her husband for he trusts her.

This tells us that she dealt with financial matter and knew how to balance a budget and keep one in order. She was a women with great self control.

Verse 17 "to be girded" means "to be ready for action." She was spiritually, mentally and physical ready for what was set before her.

The virtuous woman is strong in spirit which gives her the ability to accomplish physical tasks which require a great amount of physical strength and the Bible says her arms are strong and firm.

Verse 18 She is eating the fruit of her labor.

Galatians 6:7 KJV Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Verse 19 The DISTAFF was a staff used for holding the flax, tow or wool which would be spun into thread by means of the SPINDLE. The spindle would turn and twist the fibers into threads.

Verse 31:20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

With all that she does she still has time to help the poor and needy.

Lets look at verses 25-31

Verse 31:20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

With all that she does she still has time to help the poor and needy.

We saw today that a virtuous women has great strength of character, spiritual and moral strength, steadfastness, and firmness.

She is a crown to her husband and she is of great value.

She brings great gain to her husband and her family.

She deal wisely with the affairs of life and knows financial matter in buying and selling.

She does her husband and family no harm and is a great blessing to them.

She takes pleasure in her reasonability's to her husband and family and you will need to come back next week to hear the rest of the story.

The Virtuous Women

Part 2

Proverbs 31:25

Strength and honor are her clothing.

Psalms 27:1 This virtuous woman knows that the LORD was the strength of her life.

The word "honor" means splendor, majesty, honor.

Psalms 104:1 Tells us that the LORD is clothed with honor and majesty.

Psalms 8:5 Tells us we are clothed with glory and honor.

Isaiah 53 Tells us that the Lord laid aside His heavenly glory so that He could die for the sin of all man kind, being our substitute, making it possible for every person to be clothed with glory and honor; when they were once dressed with filthy rags.

verse 26 This godly women has the law of love in her heart, but wisdom in her mouth, and in her tongue the law of kindness. This love, strength and honor binds her heart and also governs her tongue.

Proverbs 18:21 Proverbs 16:24 Proverbs 13:3 Proverbs 15:1-2

Notice and she shall rejoice (laugh) in time to come

The word "rejoice" (KJV) is the Hebrew word meaning "laugh." It is used in Ecclesiastes 3:4—"A time to weep, and a time to laugh." In Psalm 37:12-13 we learn that "the LORD shall laugh at him (the wicked); for He seeth that his day (of judgment) is coming."

The virtuous woman will laugh at "the time to come" a clear reference to the days ahead, the future. She will laugh at the future because she has God's wisdom and strength.

II Timothy 1:7 We do not have a spirit of fear.

She knows Exodus 20:6—"shewing mercy unto thousands"

Psalm 23

Psalm 100:5—"His mercy is everlasting"

Psalm 107:8,15,21,31—"Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness"

Psalm 107:43—"The loving-kindness of the LORD"

Jonah 4:2—"slow to anger, and of great kindness"

This godly mother is a teacher. She wants God's highest and best for her children.

She will teach them according to Titus 2:3-5.

Verse 27

She looketh well to the ways [doings] of her household or keeps watch.

A watchman looks for enemies and for anything that may endanger the city and so this godly woman knows what is going on with her children.

Some parents never watch their children. They don't know where their children are or what they are doing, what they watch on television or what music they listen to. This is the responsibility of the parents they need to know what's going on in their children lives, so they can know how to teach them, discipline them, restrict them as needed, give them thoughts and ideas so that they can lead productive lives. Proverbs 22:6

And eateth not the bread of idleness

Idleness is not a part of life, yet she gets proper rest and relaxation time. The word "idleness" means sluggishness, laziness. The word is used in Proverbs 6:6,9; 19:15. Anyone who reads the description of the godly woman in Proverbs 31 knows very well that she is anything but lazy! One wonders how she has enough hours in the day to do all that she does!

"She worketh willingly with her hands."

"She riseth also while it is yet night."

"She layeth her hand to the spindle."

"She maketh fine linen and selleth it."

Vs28 Her husband and children will "call her blessed" or pronounce her happy. This Hebrew term "blessed" was used by Leah when she pronounced herself blessed: "Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed" (Genesis 30:13).

Godliness and happiness go together. The godly woman is the happy woman, and she is blessed. The virtuous woman seeks first the kingdom of God, and all these things (including happiness) are added unto her (Matthew 6:33). Happiness is a byproduct of honoring the Lord and putting Him first. It is not

an end in itself. Those who seek happiness and who make that their goal, never find it. Those who seek the Lord, find in Him their true happiness.

Blessed (happy) is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (Psalm 1:1).

Blessed are all they that put their trust in him (Psalm 2:12).

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him (Psalm 34:8).

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee (Psalm 84:5).

O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee (Psalm 84:12).

Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments (Psalm 112:1).

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart (Psalm 119:1-2).

Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways (Psalm 128:1).

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God (Psalm 146:5).

Vs29 This refers to strength of character as well as moral strength and firmness. This husband knew his wife was not the only godly, virtuous woman on the planet. He knew that there were other God-fearing women of moral strength and of virtuous character.

But here he directs his praise to his own wife: "but thou excellest them all." You surpass them all! You have raised yourself above them all. You are excellent and incomparable! You surpass all others.

When a man find his good thing he considers his treasure better than all others. To him, she is the most precious wife anyone could ever have. From his point of view, no other woman could take her place. "There's not another woman in the whole world like you!" "When I married you, God gave me the best gift this side of heaven!" and lavishes praise upon her. In his mind, she excels all others.

Verse 30

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain

External beauty is deceitful. The Hebrew term refers to that which deceives and disappoints. In other words what you see is not really what you get.

You are looking at a very beautiful person, a very special person, but the surface appearance does not reflect what's is the real person. This woman's outer charm covers up her inner deformity.

There is great emphasis in our day on external beauty. All kinds of supplements and health products are offered to try to help people look young and attractive, and to slow down nature's natural deterioration. Surgical procedures are offered which can change and improve a person's outward appearance. Diet programs and exercise programs and people spend millions of dollars to look good and feel good. Television shows are devoted to showing how a homely looking person can be transformed and made over into an attractive person by means of makeup, hair styling, weight loss, exercise, surgery, etc. There is no end to the attempts of mankind to beautify and try to preserve the external.

But a woman who feareth the LORD, she shall be praised

Inner beauty comes from a right relationship with the Lord. True beauty is impossible apart from the fear of the Lord. When the Lord is enthroned within, His glory will shine without. "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it" (Psalm 90:7).

Peter speaks of that inner beauty that ought to grace the life and conduct of every believing woman:

1 Peter 3:1-6

1: Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation (godly conduct) of the wives;

2: While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

3: Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4: But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

5: For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

6: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

The fear of the Lord is essential in the cultivation of inner beauty. If the fear of the Lord is absent, then it is impossible to display the beauty of the LORD.

"But a woman who feareth the LORD, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:30b).

The God fearing woman will be praised. In verse 28 we learned that her husband praises her. Her children will speak well of her and praise her as well (v.28). Her maidens and household servants who were privileged to observe her godly walk on a daily basis will also join in her praise (v.15). The poor and needy who were the objects of her generosity will also offer their commendation (v.20). But most importantly, on that day when every deed is brought into judgment (Eccl. 12:14), she will receive the only commendation that really matters: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21). At that time the Lord "will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; then shall every man have praise of God" (1 Cor. 4:5). A godly, virtuous life will be rewarded.

Verse 31

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

A godly and virtuous woman will be rewarded.

As she steadfastly labors and abounds in the work of the Lord, she knows that her labor will not be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). God is a very generous Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6), "knowing that whatever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord" (Eph. 6:8).

The "fruit of her hands" indicates the result of her labor. In this passage we have seen that her hands have been very busy for good (verses 16, 19, 20).

"In the gates"—In ancient cities, the space inside the gate was a public meeting place, where all manner of business was conducted. Her own works, her own deeds will praise her in the gates. That is, she will be publicly recognized for her good works and accomplishments. The idea of the verse is simply this: Give her the praises which she so richly earned.

May our light shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).