

Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman?

Proverbs 31: 10-31

Today is a special day, one that we celebrate and honor the lives of those women, our mothers in particular, who have made a significant difference in our lives. I am convinced that most of our lives have been impacted by our mothers. We know that the father is to be the head of the home, but our mothers are often the backbone, the one that keeps the family together and functional. There is a special bond between a mother and her children.

I know that my life has been deeply influenced by my mother and even my grandmother. I am thankful that the Lord allowed me to enjoy a close relationship with them. I am now married and have a family of my own and God has blessed in that regard as well. I have a precious wife who is a wonderful mother to our children. On days like these, thank you seems so insignificant and inadequate for all a mother does throughout her lifetime.

As I thought of what to share today, this passage was the only one that I could concentrate on. It is a very familiar passage that reveals the true nature of a godly mother. It speaks of a **virtuous** woman, literally “*a woman of character, it speaks of virtue, valor, and strength.*” A godly woman will possess these characteristics. I want to consider the character of a godly woman as we think on the question posed in the text: [Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman?](#)

I. The Value of a Virtuous Woman (10) – This verse reveals several things concerning the value of a virtuous woman. First of all we find:

A. She is Desirable (10a) – [Who can find a virtuous woman?](#) It is evident by the question that is raised that a virtuous woman is to be desired. It is apparent that the writer (I believe to be Solomon) has sought to find a virtuous woman. Maybe he is searching for the right woman to be his wife and mother his children. He is searching for that particular woman of godly character. She was desired and sought after.

- Much of the world no longer has a moral standard, but I am convinced that a virtuous woman is still desirable. Our homes need mothers and wives who seek the ways of the Lord and desire to instill her faith in the lives of her children. I would advise the young men to seek out a virtuous woman above all else. (Young ladies, seek one who is willing to accept your faith!) If they are not committed to the Lord, they are not the one you need! Oil and water don't mix. You will end up compromising your faith for the lusts of the flesh.

B. She is Unmistakable (10a) – The question is posed as if the seeker knows exactly what he is looking for. He knows the character that he desires in a woman and he is convinced that he will know it when he sees it. A virtuous woman will be unmistakable; her virtue cannot be hidden.

- A godly woman doesn't have to wear a blinking neon sign to reveal who she is. Her virtue will show in the life she lives. It will be apparent for all to see that she loves the Lord and seeks to live for Him.

C. She is Valuable (10b) – *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.* Here the value of a virtuous woman is revealed. If Solomon was indeed the writer of this text, we know that he was a very wealthy man. He had riches and treasure beyond measure and yet he declares that a virtuous woman was of more value than rubies.

- There is much more to a home and a marriage than material wealth and possessions. Having a godly wife and mother is far more valuable than all the riches this world can afford. I would rather have a virtuous woman than to have all the rubies in the world. She will benefit the family far more than what money can buy!

- A godly woman possesses something that this world cannot offer and that is a relationship with Christ. She has the ability to be a godly influence on her family. Much of what children believe is based on what they are taught in the home. A godly mother's influence and direction cannot be measured in material means! If you have a godly mother, you are rich.

I. The Value of a Virtuous Woman (10)

II. The Virtue of a Virtuous Woman (11-31) – In these verses the writer describes the character of a virtuous woman. In them we see:

A. Her Commitment (11-19) – Her commitment is abundant. She is committed to:

1. Her Husband (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.* He is pleased with her because of her commitment to him. We need more commitment among spouses today!

2. Her Home (13-15a) – 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. A godly mother is committed to her home regardless of the work involved or the hour of need. She seeks to provide for their well being.

3. Her Handmaiden (15b) – She even seeks to provide a portion to her maidens. She even seeks to serve those who are expected to be of service to her. A godly woman will possess the heart of a servant.

4. Her Harvest (16-19) – 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. A virtuous woman is not idle. She is consistently laboring for the needs of the family. A mother's work is never done. (That is not to say that they don't deserve help. I am convinced that many women work much harder than most men!)

B. Her Compassion (20) – She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. A virtuous woman does not neglect or overlook the needs of others. She has been given a heart of compassion for those who stand in need.

- My how we need those in our day who possess a heart of compassion. Many in the world are seeking for someone to care, someone to lend a hand and love them in spite of their need. All of God's people need to be people of compassion.

C. Her Character (22-26) – The character of a virtuous woman is something to be desired and encouraged. Notice:

1. Her Modesty (22) – She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. There is certainly an application here for the natural beauty that a virtuous woman possesses, but I think it is evident as well that she desires to present herself modestly. She is not as those who have no faith or value for themselves. She seeks to present herself in a way that honors the Lord and her family. Our generation needs to learn this valuable trait and dress appropriately!

2. Her Purity (23) – Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. This speaks of the purity that a virtuous woman possesses and the testimony that she presents. Her actions have a positive impact on the reception of her husband. He is honored among the elders of the land and his wife has played a significant role in that.

- We need to understand that our lives are not lived in a bubble. Our actions reflect upon others as well. The lives that we live reflect upon our Lord, our families, and our church! We need to seek a life of purity!

3. Her Honesty (24) – She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Apparently the virtuous woman spoken of was successful in business. She worked hard to prepare a quality product, one that the merchants were glad to purchase. This speaks of her honesty in business. She was trusted for the quality of her product and the fairness in which she did business.

- Truth is little regarded in our day. Most will tell a lie as quick as they will tell the truth. Many seek only their benefit regardless of the cost to others. We need to be as the virtuous woman and practice honesty in all of life.

4. Her Integrity (25-26) – 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. She is clothed in strength and honor and speaks with wisdom. Those who knew her knew what to expect. They had come to admire her for the woman that she was.

- This isn't something that can be bought, but it is displayed by living a life that honors the Lord and shows compassion for others, consistent living.

D. Her Comfort (28-30) – The life of the virtuous woman was not overlooked or unrewarded. She was blessed of God for her faithfulness.

1. A Life of Honor (28-29) – 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. Her labor and commitment resulted in the praise and honor of her children. They rejoiced that she had been their mother. She was regarded as one who stood above the rest.

- There is much in life that brings satisfaction to our lives. We work hard to achieve success and reach our goals. But I would have to say that one of the greatest honors in life is having children, especially when you know that they are appreciative to be a part of the family. One of the greatest compliments we can receive is the thanks of our children for the impact that we have made in their lives.

2. A Life of Hope (30) – [Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.](#) Here we are reminded that much of what we strive for in this life is temporal and vain. We might desire the praise of men, but eventually the praises will cease. We might focus our attentions of outward beauty, but eventually it will fade. The one thing in life that really matters is a relationship with Christ our Lord. Of all that was admirable about the virtuous woman, her fear of the Lord was the greatest. She was known as one who feared the Lord and lived for Him.

- Much can be said at the end of life. We can talk of past successes and the prosperity that we enjoyed. But the greatest thing that can be said of anyone is that they were a Christian.
- I am not interested in being remembered as a great preacher. I am not interested in being remembered for the things that I acquired in this life. I would like to be remembered as one who feared the Lord and sought to live for Him. I hope that is your desire as well. That is the only thing that we will be able to take with us when this life is through.

Has God spoken to your heart through His Word today? Is there a need in your life that you need to pray about? Do you desire to live closer to the Lord than what you have in the past? If so, this altar is open.

Maybe your mother is here today and you just want to go to her and tell her what she means to you. Maybe your mother isn't here, but there is someone who has meant a lot to you and you would just like to tell them. Why not go to them and let them know how much you love them?