

Proverbs 18:22

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“He Who Finds a Wife” **Proverbs 18:22**

INTRO:

There is a verse I think of often when I think of the wife the Lord has given me. It is found in **Proverbs 18:22** and it says simply. ***“He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.”*** This is widely thought to be a proverb from the wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon. But it also serves as a reminder to us men of the blessing God has given us in giving each of us the wife that we have. I recognize that I, for one, do not deserve the great wife that the Lord has given me. She is God’s great grace gift to me.

Today is Mother’s Day and I cannot think of a more appropriate verse to study than this one. While I know that not everyone who is here today is married, I still think that this applies to each one of us in some way. Most of us, at one point or another will be married. If you are married, this will be very applicable to you. If you are a child or a young adult, this applies to you in terms of your future. If, however you are single, you can apply this to how the Lord Jesus views you as a part of His bride, the church. Our exploration of this little verse will fall into two divisions.

I. He That Finds a Wife

II. He Receives Favor from the Lord

I. He That Finds a Wife

A. Usually when we launch into a study of a text, we look closely at the immediate context. We cannot do this with today’s text because it is found in the midst of a group of proverbs. These are wonderful little concise nuggets of wisdom that really are not related to one another. For example, the proverb right before the one we are looking at says, ***“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”*** It is difficult to see what this has to do with finding a wife. The proverb that follows our text says, ***“The poor man uses entreaties, but the rich answers roughly.”*** This certainly does not follow from finding a wife unless it means that all those trips to Joann’s Fabrics will make you poor.

B. So, Solomon said told us, ***“He who finds a wife finds a good thing.”*** The first thing we find in this statement is that a good wife is worth seeking! As I understand it, the implication in the word translated ***“find”*** is that there has been a diligent search. We read this word used in terms of God several places in the Old Testament. Let me just cite one example. **Deuteronomy 4:29** reads,

“But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

C. Why is a wife worth seeking? The Scriptures give us men several reasons why we should seek a good wife.

1. First, we should seek a quality wife because she is of great value.

Proverbs 31:10-13 *“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.”*

Brother, if the Lord has given you a good wife, you should praise Him continually because she is priceless.

2. She should be loved and valued also because she enriches her husband's life.

Proverbs 12:4 says, *“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband.”* The idea behind the word *“crown”* is not that she wallops him over the head all of the time. Rather, she is a source of honor and blessing to him. I like to think that the quality of the woman that I married says good things about me. Our duty, men, is to *cherish* our wives.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church, for we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.” Ephesians 5:25-30.

The word translated *“cherish”* means to warm, comfort, and protect. The Lord does that for us. Do we do that for our wives?

3. She is worth seeking because she gives her husband the confidence, strength, and wisdom to become accomplished in his vocation and ministry. It has long been said that behind every successful man there is a great woman. This concept is Biblical.

Proverbs 31:23 *“Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.”*

The strong implication in this text is that he sits there because of who she is and what she does!

B. Now all of this applies nicely to the way we seek our wives today. We meet a woman and then seek to win her affections. Then when you bend your knee and ask her to marry you, she will take pity on you and say “yes!” However, that was not the way it was done in Solomon's day. In fact, that is not the way it is done in many of the world's cultures. In Solomon's time, the boy's dad and the girl's dad got together and decided it was a good thing for the boy and the girl to marry when they got old

enough. You did not choose your wife. She was chosen for you. So, where does all this diligent searching business come in?

1. I think that Solomon is saying, a wise man thinks of the wife that has been found for him *as if* she were a treasure that he has diligently sought for. If we see her as valuable beyond money and pour our lives into our relationship with her, we will find the benefits far exceed the investment.

2. While the writer of Proverbs does remind us that some wives and husbands can be cantankerous, (**Proverbs 25:24** ***“It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.”***) I am convinced most wives will become wonderful loving helpmates, if we husbands will treat them like a treasure found after a diligent search.

C. What does he who finds a wife find? The text simply says, ***“a good thing.”***

1. The Hebrew word translated ***“good”*** here is like the word ***kalos*** in Greek, it contains at least two ideas of goodness. The first is moral goodness.

“He that finds a wife finds something morally upright and pleasing to God.”

God is all for marriage.

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” Hebrews 13:4.

2. A second concept contained in the idea of goodness is the idea of ***“pleasant, beautiful, agreeable, enjoyable, and pleasurable.”*** In short, Solomon is saying to us, ***“He that finds a wife finds someone who will bring joy and fulfillment to his life.”*** That is exactly what God intended marriage to be, the greatest blessing that can ever happen to a man and a woman. It is to be a taste of heaven on earth. The intimacy and joy of marriage is supposed to picture the wonder and blessing of our intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. He Receives Favor from the Lord

A. Not only does he who finds a wife, find a good thing, he also ***“receives favor from the LORD.”*** Solomon does not want us to forget that our wives were given to us as grace gifts from God.

B. To understand this thought a little better, let us think about the first wedding ever performed in **Genesis 2:18-25**. Here we find the essence of what Solomon is saying.

1. In **verse 18** we find this incredible statement, ***“And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’”*** The Hebrew word translated ***“good”*** is the same word that we found in our text here in Proverbs. God created us in the beginning to live for someone

else. In the primary sense we are to live for God, but in a secondary sense we need to live for our families and our spouses.

2. Now God did not just zap up a wife for Adam. No. First he made Adam aware of his need before he met that need. Look at **verses 19 and 20**. The statement at the end of **verse 20** is very significant.

“But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.”

Was God surprised that there was not found a helpmeet for Adam among the animals? No! He already knew what He planned to do!

3. What follows is the first surgery ever performed. Now God is going to teach Adam how important Eve is supposed to be to him by how He creates her. God could have made Eve in the same way that He made Adam, out of the dust of the earth, but He didn't. Instead, He made Adam sleep and then took one of his ribs to make Eve. She is supposed to become a part of you, Adam, closer to you than any other human being on planet earth.

4. Here is another of those moments in Biblical history that I wish I could have witnessed firsthand. It must have been something to be at the first wedding.

vs. 22- 23 “Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.’”

He said in effect, she is a part of me. And that is exactly how a man should think about his own wife.

“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church” Ephesians 5:28,29.

5. The goal of all of this is total intimacy. This is what is meant by the statement that the two shall become one flesh. That is not just a euphemism for sex. It means a oneness in every area of life, oneness emotionally, socially, spiritually, and physically!

C. Do we deserve this kind of blessing from God? Don't kid yourself. Instead, thank the Lord for His grace, the wonderful wife the Lord has given you. And then treat her like the precious gift from God that she is!

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