

A Force for Good
Mother's Day 5/08/22
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Good morning, Lighthouse, Happy Mother's Day! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Today I want to revisit the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, which I think is likely the greatest Biblical example of what a woman can be; second only to perhaps Mary, the mother of Jesus.

I also want to challenge you to attend our Lighthouse Bible Class, as in the coming months we will be finishing up the book of Proverbs by studying this amazing book, verse by verse.

Proverbs 31:1 The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

There is some difference of opinion out there about who is actually the human author of Proverbs 31.

However, if you look up the name "Lemuel", you will find that the name means "belonging to God" and is a symbolic name for King Solomon.

That makes King Solomon the scribe, and his mother, Bathsheba, the human instrument the Holy Spirit used to give us this amazing discourse.

This fact alone speaks volumes as to the amazing character and nature of God when it comes to your potential and how you might be limited by your past.

Bathsheba had an affair with King David which resulted in the murder of her husband as well as the death of her first child.

Yet, God not only saved her and forgave her, He gave her strength and wisdom to become one of the greatest success stories ever and His example to women worldwide!

Ladies, you weren't all raised in a Godly home and taught to be a virtuous woman; many, if not most of you have a past that is stained with a whole lot of poor choices and **[dare we call it what it is]** ...sin.

Well, I have good news for you! There is a God in heaven that cares more about what you are going to be than what you have been!

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

Today we're going to look at some of the character traits that are found in this virtuous woman.

Before we do that, I want to bring to your attention a somewhat clearer definition of what we are actually reading about.

In English, when you look up **virtuous** you find a definition that one would expect:

righteous, good, pure, whiter than white, saintly, angelic, moral, ethical, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, exemplary.

But the text we are reading in the Bible was not written in English and the translation doesn't always give us the full picture. This word is Hebrew:

[chayil](#)

khah'-yil

From [H2342](#); probably a *force*, whether of men, means or other resources; an *army*, *wealth*, *virtue*, *valor*, *strength*: - able, activity, (+) army, band of men (soldiers), company, (great) forces, goods, host, might, power, riches, strength, strong, substance, train, (+) valiant (-ly), valour, virtuous (-ly), war, worthy (-ily).

This word is not just describing a woman who is a good woman, this term is describing a woman who is **a force** for good, **a resource** of strength, **a wealth** of power and ability who is making a difference in the lives of those around her.

We have women like that in our Church and God is training more of them! Amen?

Read with me from verse 10:

Proverbs 31:10-31

10 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.

Can you imagine growing up in this woman's home?

Can you imagine having this lady as your mom?

Ladies, many of you came to the Lord late in life. Not only did you not grow up in a home like this, you didn't even know there were homes like this.

What does it take to be a woman like this?

There are several things she must be:

I. She must be different than those around her.

A. She is different because she knows and fears the Lord.

1. Respect, reverence and yes, fear of the Lord, will definitely make you different.

2. **Proverbs 31:30** Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

3. This is not the kind of woman you can be in your own strength; to be this virtuous force for good requires strength that comes only from God.

B. Ladies, are you saved?

1. Do you really know Jesus?

2. I mean, have you faced your sin; have you understood your desperate need; have you realized there is nothing you can do about your sin problem?

3. Have you truly believed that Jesus is God in the flesh, that He loves you and that He went to the cross for you and there paid for your sins?

4. And then...have you gone to Jesus in your heart and there, in that moment, placed your trust in Him to save you from your sins?

5. No man or woman can become a force for good until first they have come to Jesus.

Next, she must be:

II. She must be a woman of character.

A. Being a Christian in and of itself does not change your life in this world.

1. Being a Christian gives you the power to change.

2. **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

3. Change comes as you embrace and practice what you learn from the Lord.

B. There is no substitute for basic Christian Character.

1. She is trustworthy.

2. **Proverbs 31:11** The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

3. Trustworthy is more than just being faithful to only your husband; it means you can be trusted.

4. Can you be trusted?

a. With the checkbook?

b. To be transparent and open?

c. To keep your word?

d. To do all that honesty and integrity demands?

e. To always do him good?

5. **Proverbs 31:12** She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

6. This woman actively seeks the wellbeing of those in her life and will not under any circumstances bring them harm.

III. She cares.

A. This woman is moved with compassion when she sees people in need.

1. **Proverbs 31: 20** She stretcheth out her hand to the poor...

2. Her heart is tender.

B. She does something about it.

1. **Proverbs 31:20**...Yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

2. No one can do something about everything, but we can do something!

3. We can respond to the needs God places before us.

IV. She gets things done.

A. This woman is not just good, she's good at it.

1. She takes good care of her family.

2. She is NOT lazy!

3. **Proverbs 31:13-15**

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.

4. **Proverbs 31:21** She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

B. She also works outside the home.

1. Some may expect me to stand up here and tell you that a woman's place is in the home.

2. Well it is...however; this woman who is a force for good and a wealth of strength, has found a way to contribute to the wealth of her household WITHOUT neglecting her children or her husband.

3. No wonder her husband is known in the gates.

C. She is not afraid to dream.

1. **Proverbs 31:16** She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

2. This gal is a thinker; she has goals, she has dreams of greater and better things.

3. You, ladies, are capable of so much more than you think you are...don't be afraid to dream!

4. Look for the opportunities that the Lord places in front of you.

V. She is in control.

A. A lot of women want to be in control.

1. This woman has **self-control**.

2. She has standards.

3. She is strong enough to live a disciplined life; she cares about honor.

4. **Proverbs 31:25** Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

B. She controls her tongue.

1. **Proverbs 31:26** She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

2. This woman doesn't scream at her kids.

3. She says what she means and means what she says...and all those around her know it.

C. She is looking ahead for her family.

1. Because she is wise, she is looking at where her family members' ways are taking them.

2. **Proverbs 31:27** She looketh well to the ways of her household...

3. This woman is going to discipline her children and keep them in Church.

Conclusion:

Ladies, go and be a force for good!

Why? Because you can!

I know that in some ways God made you the weaker sex, but not in the ways that count the most.

God created you to be a woman who is a force for good, a resource of strength, a wealth of power and ability who can and will make a difference in the lives of those around you.

All this and more you can do...but not without Jesus.

Do you know Him...are you saved?

Placing your trust in the death, the burial and the resurrection of the Lord as the payment of your sins is how you start!