

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, July 31, 2022

Sermon Series: God's Plan and Purposes for Marriage

Message 13. The Proverbs 31 Woman – Proverbs 31:10-31

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Verses 1-2 introduce this chapter as advice from a mother to her son, from a Queen to her Prince who would be King. The name Lemuel means “belongs to God” and it likely a term of endearment for Solomon by his mother, Bathsheba. She begins by asking what she should say in order to advise him in how to walk and rule righteously and she answers herself by giving him 4 warnings followed by a catechism useful for defining a virtuous woman. Each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, in order, and teaches the qualities to be sought and developed by women who would be excellent in all that they are and do.

- I. A Virtuous Woman – vs. 10
 - A. Virtue is Moral Excellence
 - 1. First thing added to faith – 2 Peter 1:5
 - 2. Good works/righteousness – Eph. 4:24
 - B. Virtue is Applied/Experienced
 - 1. In thought – Prov. 16:3; Phil. 4:8; Psa. 19:14
 - 2. In feeling – Prov. 29:11; Eph. 4:18-19; Jude 1:10
 - 3. In action – 1 Thess. 4:3-8 – holiness & sanctification
 - 4. In contrast to
 - a. Insecurity – I am not...
 - b. Inadequacy – I don't...
 - c. Inability – I can't...
- II. A Trustworthy Woman – vs. 11-16
 - A. Trust – Prov. 3:5-6
 - B. Diligence – Prov. 4:23; Heb. 6:10-12
 - C. Willingness – Eph. 5:22-24; Titus 2:3-5
 - D. Profitability – Matt. 25:14-30
 - 1. Improvement – 2 Peter 1:5-11
 - 2. Dependence – John 15:4-5
- III. A Woman of Strength and Honor – vs. 17-25
 - A. Fitness/Ability – 1 Tim. 4:8; 1 Cor. 6:18-20
 - B. Generosity – 2 Cor. 8:3-5
 - C. Confidence – not pride, but certainty – Prov. 3:26; 14:26; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 3:13-15; 10:35-36
 - D. Reputable – 1 Tim. 3:7
- IV. A God-fearing Woman – vs. 26-31
 - A. Wisdom – Prov. 9:10; 15:33 – opp. Foolishness
 - B. Kindness – Gal. 5:22 – moral goodness, having a high level of usefulness – opp. severe
 - C. Watches Over, Warns – Psa. 127:1; Ezek. 3:17; Prov. 1:8
 - D. Praise-Worthy – to be like Jesus – Psa. 18:3 – opp. Deceitful charm
 - E. To the Praise of the Father through the Son by the Spirit – 1 Peter 1:6-9

Cross References

2 Peter 1:5

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

Ephesians 4:24

24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Proverbs 16:3

3 Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established.

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Psalms 19:14

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Proverbs 29:11

11 A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back.

Ephesians 4:18-19

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Jude 10

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 4:23

23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Hebrews 6:10-12

10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Ephesians 5:22-24

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Titus 2:3-5

3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ 26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

2 Peter 1:5-11

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore,

brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

John 15:4-5

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

1 Timothy 4:8

8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

2 Corinthians 8:3-5

3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

Proverbs 3:26

26 For the Lord will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

Proverbs 14:26

26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

Philippians 3:3

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

Hebrews 3:13-15

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

Hebrews 10:35-36

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

1 Timothy 3:7

7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Proverbs 9:10

10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 15:33

33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

Galatians 5:22

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Psalms 127:1

127 Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Ezekiel 3:17

17 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:

Proverbs 1:8

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;

Psalms 18:3

3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

1 Peter 1:6-9

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.