

THE QUEENS MINISTRY BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

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The Proverbs 31 Woman

Who can find a virtuous woman?

Found in Proverbs 31:10-31

Epilogue: The Wife of Noble Character

10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
15 She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.
16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
24 She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies the merchants with sashes.
25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
29 “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”
30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
31 Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

–Proverbs 31:10-31 NIV courtesy of Biblegateway.com

Who was the Virtuous Woman?

Also referred to as the

- 1) Women of Valor the Woman of Valor
- 2) Wife of Noble Character the Wife of Noble Character

To some, she pretty much sets the standard for many women for what it means to be a good Christian woman. But the question posed to many is: **Is it possible to achieve the high ideals found in her character?** In this lesson we will examine the traits of this model woman and see what qualities we can apply to our own lives or enhance.

6 Surprising Facts About the Proverbs 31 Woman

“A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.”
—Proverbs 31:10

1. Proverbs 31 is Written to a man, not a woman

*“The sayings of King Lemuel—an inspired utterance his mother taught him.” —
Proverbs 31:1*

2. Proverbs 31 is One Woman’s Motherly Advise Not an Overarching Prescription For a Super Woman

*“Listen, my son! Listen, son of my womb!
Listen, my son, the answer to my prayers!
Do not spend your strength on women,
your vigor on those who ruin kings.”
—Proverbs 31:2-3*

3. In the Jewish Culture, Proverbs 31 is a Song of Praise

Jewish women also use the passage to praise each other! According to [this article by Rachel Held Evans](#), the phrase “*who can find a virtuous woman?*” (from Proverbs 31:10) comes from the Hebrew word “**eshet chayil**,” which can be translated as “**woman of valor**.”

Rather than using this virtuous woman description as a guilt-inducing measuring stick, Jewish women will praise each other with a hearty “*eshet chayil!*” as a way of saying “*You go girl! You’re awesome! Woman of valor!*”

4. The Virtuous Woman is a Figurative Character, Not a Real Person

This woman is not an actual person but is a description, given by a mother to her son, of the type of woman he should look for in a wife, she sets a lofty ideal that praises virtuous women as a whole, while giving us a high standard to work toward.

It’s also important to remember: While scholars aren’t in 100% agreement, **the Proverbs 31 can be viewed as simply a compilation of the best traits of Godly women as a whole.**

5. The Virtuous Woman Isn't Weak, or Passive But a Woman of Strength

*“She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.”
—Proverbs 31:17*

“Her husband has full confidence in her,” “She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard,” and “she is clothed with strength and dignity.”

6. Another Example of the Virtuous Woman Seen in the Bible

Proverbs 31 isn't the only place “eshet chayil” is mentioned in the Bible. According to [this article by Rachel Held Evans](#), **you can also find it in the book of Ruth** where Boaz tells Ruth:

“And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.” Ruth 3:11

Boaz saw her and called her an “eshet chayil” — a woman of valor. Because that's exactly what she was.

Part 2:

What Does a Proverbs 31 Woman Look Like Today?

The Proverbs 31 Woman is a virtuous woman whose faith is the foundation of her character.

- 1) She is a woman of virtue _____ v10
- 2) She shows faithfulness _____ or trustworthy _____ v 11
- 3) She shows strength _____ and endurance _____ vv17, 18
- 4) She is well rounded _____ v19
- 5) She is charitable _____ v20
- 6) Seeks to do good _____ toward others v12
- 7) She is industrious and work diligently _____ vv13-15, 17-18
- 8) She is honorable _____ v25
- 9) She is wise _____ and offer guidance _____ v26
- 10) She is graceful _____ v3

- 11) She is / has integrity _____ v25
- 12) She excels _____ or achieves _____ v29
- 13) She is worth of praise _____ and is blessed _____ v28
- 14) She is creative / productive _____ vv 22, 24
- 15) She is business like _____ or financially savvy _____ savvy v16
- 16) She shows excellent character or respect _____ v. 10
- 17) She is a good manager _____ of her affairs v15
- 18) She makes decisions _____ vv16,18
- 19) Shows compassion to help those in need _____ v20
- 20) Shows reverence _____ and faith in God _____ v30
- 21) She is a role model _____

These are all traits we can cultivate today—whether we have husbands, kids, homes, or jobs or not!

Can we become a Proverbs 31 virtuous woman today?

We can certainly strive to be, by seeking to model our character after her incredible example.

1. Study the characteristics of the Proverbs 31 Woman
2. Look for ways to incorporate these same traits in your life today, where you can.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be a more virtuous woman or to exemplify these godly traits

Who can find the virtuous woman!

*She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.*

31:25

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate*

31:30-31

What other virtuous women in the Bible do you see as examples to look up to?