

The Victory of the Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:28-31

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Introduction: This morning we defined the **virtue**, determined the **value**, described the **vitality**, & discerned the **vision** of the virtuous woman. We concluded that the spiritual vision of a godly mother depends upon her continual view of her great God. Physical eyesight can be corrected with glasses or contacts or even surgery. But spiritual vision is adjusted only by a continual look to the Savior (see II Corinthians 3:18). In the book of Proverbs, the virtuous woman is contrasted elsewhere with the contentious woman; or, the commendable woman versus the condemnable woman. Tonight we come to declare the **victory** of the virtuous woman.

I. She is praised by her **children** (:28a).

A. They give praise to God for having such a godly mother.

1. “There can be no higher joy for a mother than for her children to grow up to praise her as the source of the wisdom that made them godly” (MacArthur).
2. “Because mothers have a unique bond & intimacy with their children, & spend far more time with them than do fathers, they have far greater influence in their lives & thus a unique responsibility & opportunity for rearing godly children” (MacArthur).

B. They give praise to their mother following their dad’s example?

Ask: Do our children hear dad say daily, “I love you” to their mother?

Illustrate:

At My Mother’s Knee

I have worshiped in churches and chapels, I have prayed in the busy street;
I have sought my God and have found Him, Where the waves of the ocean beat;
I have knelt in the silent forest, In the shade of some ancient tree;
But the dearest of all my altars, Was raised at my mother’s knee.
I have listened to God in His temple, I’ve caught His voice in the crowd;
I have heard Him speak when the breakers, Were booming long and loud;
Where the winds play softly in the treetops, My Father has talked to me;
But I never have heard Him clearer, Than I did at my mother’s knee.
The things in my life that are worthy, Were born in my mother’s breast;
And breathed into mine by the magic, Of the love her life expressed.
The years that have brought me to manhood, Have taken her far from me;
But memory keeps me from straying, Too far from my mother’s knee.
God, make me the man of her vision, And purge me of selfishness!
God, keep me true to her standards, And help me to live to bless!

- Author Unknown

II. She is praised by her **husband** (:28b-29).

A. He praises God for such a wonderful gift:

1. Compare Proverbs 18:22 – “This verse refers to both human action (“*findeth*”) & the divine governance (“*from the LORD*”)” (Study Bible).
2. Compare Proverbs 19:14 – “One receives inheritance as a family blessing (a result of human birth), but a wise wife is a result of divine blessing (cf. 12:4)” (MacArthur).

B. He praises her as a daughter who has excelled (literally, “out-virtued” all others).

1. He refers to her as a “*daughter*” because of the special relationship between dad & daughter?
2. He uses the same word for excellence (“*virtuous*”) here as in verse 10 – superlative praise!

III. She is praised by her **Lord** (:30).

- A. Such praise is recorded here by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:
 - 1. “True holiness & virtue command permanent respect & affection, far more than charm & beauty of face & form (cf. I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 3:1-6)” (MacArthur).
 - 2. The book of Proverbs closes with the theme with which it began, “*the fear of the LORD*” (see 1:7; 9:10).
- B. Such praise is recorded similarly of Elisabeth in Luke 1:5-6, “*walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.*”
 - 1. “But the fear of God reigning in the heart is the beauty of the soul; it recommends those that have it to the favour of God” (Henry).
 - 2. “A godly woman may well have outward charm & beauty, but these are of secondary importance to her godliness” (Study Bible note).

IV. She is praised by her **works** (:31).

- A. The “*fruit of her hands*” refers to reaping the benefits of taking care of her husband & children - they are her reward.
- B. Her “*works praise her in the gates*” refers to the recognition she receives from the public square by those who have observed her household (compare Acts 9:39).
 - 1. “Her best praise is her works themselves. In the gates; i.e., in the place where the representatives of the people come together, and where the people are assembled, her works praise her; and the poet desires that this may be right worthily done, full of certainty that she merits it, and that they honor themselves who seek to praise the works of such a woman, which carry in themselves their own commendation” (Keil).
 - 2. “While she receives material reward (:22), the praise & success she labored to bring to her family & community will be here praise. The result of all her efforts is her best eulogy” (MacArthur).

Conclusion: I have sought to give you the five “V”s of a godly woman in the morning & evening messages. We saw this morning the defining of her virtue, the determining of her value, the describing of her vitality, & the discerning of her vision. Tonight we have looked at the declaring of her victory. But what is said of the virtuous woman ought to be true of all of us, men, women, & children. How about you here this evening? Do you have a “fear-full” heart (walking in the fear of the Lord) & do you have a “faithful” heart (speaking words of wisdom & kindness)? Do you long to hear the words of welcome from the Savior, “*Well done, thou good & faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord*”? This poem seems to be a fitting conclusion to Proverbs 31, the tribute to the virtuous woman.

Mother

She said her hands were ugly, And she tried to hide them too.
But in God’s sight ‘twas different, For He knew what they could do.
They were busy hands for Jesus – Doing tasks for Him each day;
They washed and ironed and sewed and scrubbed, In the most willing, cheerful way.
They kept a clean and shining home – They cared for a family;
And did the humble, homey jobs, In a manner sweet to see.
They were ready to help others, Whenever there was need,
And those ready, willing hands of hers, Were a source of help indeed.
She said her hands were ugly, But not so in His dear sight,
For they labor for the Master, Morning noon and night.
And He will bless those lovely hands, And all they do each day;
And sometime, “Well done, child of Mine,” She’ll hear her Savior say.

- R. B. Melone