

NOTES FROM THE SERVICE

DATE _____ SPEAKER _____
TEXT _____

SCRIPTURE _____

NOTES FROM THE MESSAGE:

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Etiquette *Please refrain from walking and using the middle aisle during worship service. *Exiting/Entering the sanctuary during prayer and ministry of giving is not permitted. *No food, gum or drink permitted in the sanctuary.” *Please silence cell phones.” *Please no talking during offertory service *Pray for the Sick, and Shut-in and those in bereavement *Come to Bible Study and hear the speakers on people who had relationships in the Bible

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Pastor Jimmy L. Gates, Sr., B.A., M.DIV.



May 9, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

SUNDAYSCHOOL.....9:15AM.....SIS BEVERLY DURST

.....CALL TO WORSHIP.....

MUSICAL INTERLUDE.....11:30AM.....MUSICIANS

SCRIPTURE.....OFFICERS

PRAYER.....OFFICERS

SELECTION.....

OFFERING.....FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

SELECTION.....

THE SPOKEN WORD.....PASTOR JIMMY L. GATES, SR.

MESSAGE: "THANK GOD FOR SPIRITUAL MAMAS"

SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 31:10-11; 30-31

TIME TO RECIEVE THOSE WHOM THE LORD HAS
CALLED..... PULPIT

ALTAR CALL.....PULPIT

BENEDICTION.....PASTOR JIMMY L. GATES, SR.

RECCESIONAL.....LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN

Announcements:

Responsive Reading today: Romans 9:6-21

FROM THE PASTOR:

Sunday School online on Sunday's at 9:15 a.m. –
Call in: 978-990-5047 ~ Access Code 3312613#

Wednesday Bible Study online at 7 p.m. –
Call In: 701-802-5360 and Access Code: 7817353

Volunteers are needed for the **Summer Camp Program.**
Please contact Victoria Dennis.

Precept Class has started back, please feel free to join the class on **Thursdays** at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please come wearing a mask and social distancing is required.

The Trustees are in the offices on Mondays from 10:30 am until 1:00 p.m., if you want to drop off your tithes and offerings.

31:10 and “excellently” in 31:29. All three translations are appropriate for this most amazing woman.

But this woman does more than simply succeed in business or at domestic duties. She is no uncaring tycoon: instead, she “opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy” thereby linking her provision for the poor to her other skills. This woman is also far from silent. She speaks with wisdom and the “teaching of kindness” is on her tongue. Her strength, that is, appears to be as much moral as it is physical.

Although it is not a narrative, one can “read” the rest of Proverbs as a story about this child who has been instructed at home by his parents about the ways of wisdom and folly. Proverbs 31:10-

31 see this child out into the “real world,” far from home, and into all kinds of areas and subjects, without giving up on the quest for wisdom. In such a “story,” 31:10-31 can be seen as a picture of the child of chapters 1-9 back home, all grown up and “doing good.” Most important among the good and wise things he has done is “marry her.” His wife bears striking resemblance to the earlier depictions of Woman Wisdom; she incarnates, as it were, Wisdom. The son of Proverbs 1-9 has learned well and has chosen wisely.

The connections between the capable wife and Woman Wisdom might suggest another explanation for the picture in 31:10-31: that portrait may be a sapiential and mythological ideal as much as a patriarchal one. That is, this is no “real” woman, but Woman Wisdom. Only she could possibly work that hard!

“HAPPY MOTHERS DAY”

FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR.....

A TRIBUTE TO GODLY, SPIRIT-FILLED WOMEN

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” Proverbs 31:10-11; 30-31;

It is often cited in praise of wives and mothers and is among the most popular and familiar texts from Proverbs. Of course, “popular” and “familiar” does not necessarily mean “clear” and

“without interpretive difficulties”” One of these difficulties, to be sure, is that Proverbs is a patriarchal text and chapter 31 is certainly no exception. Preachers might appropriately worry that 31:10-31 is a masculine commendation of women and “woman’s work.” Such a concern is not unfounded.

Verse 10, for instance, seems to begin oddly and ambiguously, if only because it apparently suggests that a capable wife is hard to find and yet the poem immediately proceeds to praise one. This one woman, that is, may be the “ideal” that one man cannot find. But even if she is difficult to find, it’s no wonder why: she’s working hard! And working hard everywhere, on everything, for everybody from dawn to dusk no less! Again, preachers might very well worry that 31:10-31 depicts an idealized woman only from a patriarchal perspective.

These concerns are real, but there is more to say about the passage. And yet, while there is more to say, that should not undercut the preceding concerns. Some churchgoers will also worry about 31:10-31; others will not. Some will know they should worry; others will refuse to worry. Part of the preaching task, is “to convert life into truth, or life passed through the fire of thought.” Part of the truth about life is the patriarchy of the ancient world including the biblical world. Part of passing that life through the fire of thought is to think critically and theologically about such patriarchy, including such patriarchy in the biblical world. Such a task is not restricted to the clergy in seminary classrooms, but is one for the priesthood of all believers, whether male or female, if they are to be thoughtful and faithful Christians in the contemporary world.

Passing the life of the biblical world through the fire of homiletical thought reveals more, however, than just worries about patriarchy in Proverbs 31:10-31. In fact, close attention to

the biblical world and the specific world of Proverbs reveals two important things about the “ode to the capable wife.”

Not all of the hard work of this hardworking woman is adequately or accurately described as “woman’s work” not now and certainly not in the patriarchal world of antiquity. The wife in Proverbs 31 is not in the kitchen scrubbing dishes and biting her tongue! While she clearly takes care of her husband and household and excels at domestic activities, and she is quite active outside the home as well. She is a successful businesswoman, considering a field and buying it, and is a viticulturist to boot. She is an entrepreneur who works late into the evening, who plans ahead, and who is not idle. She knows how to dress for success and how to sell goods for a profit. Her work compares favorably to merchant marines, and one suspects that the reason her husband is well known is because of her, and not him.

Indeed, the sentiments of verse 17 and verse 25 go far beyond both home and market: they are worthy of the mightiest of warriors. It should come as no surprise, then, that the word “capable” in verse 10 is the same word translated “strength” in