

MOTHER'S DAY 5-12-19

THE CHARACTERISTIC OF A VIRTUOUS WOMAN

This is mother's day and on this special day I want to read through the passage that magnifies a godly and virtuous woman above any other verses in the Bible. I have preached many times on this passage, but it would do us good on this special occasion to review the characteristics of a virtuous woman.

This morning we have given to each of the ladies a special frame with the song I wrote a few years back, taken from Proverbs 31 and the virtuous woman. We gave you this little gift to help you to remember what you should be in this society which promotes and exalts a role model for women that is totally contrary to this passage. In fact, the world that we live in actually makes light of the woman described in Proverbs 31. What the world makes light of, God exalts. I hope you will choose to follow the Lord rather than the world.

Consider this morning the biblical characteristics of a virtuous woman.

First of all:

I. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A RARITY.

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

According to this verse it is as common to find a virtuous woman as it is to find a ruby in the rough.

1. IN ECCLESIASTES, SOLOMON REITERATES THE FACT THAT A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A RARE COMMODITY.

Solomon says he might find one good man out of a thousand, but not one virtuous woman out of a thousand. Ecc. 7:28

Ecclesiastes 7:28 Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.

Note this statement:

Ecclesiastes 7:26 And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart [is] snares and nets, [and] her hands [as] bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

Many young men are being entrapped by non-virtuous women. The key to finding a virtuous woman is to be a godly man. "The man who pleases the Lord will escape being entrapped by an un-virtuous woman.

Often, because of a man's flaws, he is attracted to the wrong type of woman.

We are often entrapped by our own wicked desires and sin.

THE ONLY WAY A MAN CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS IF HE IS LOOKING TO PLEASE THE LORD.

A young man or a young women spends too much time trying to find the right spouse. What they need to do is spend time trying to please the Lord and when you spend your time trying to please the Lord, then and only then will the Lord direct you to a virtuous and godly spouse, which the Bible calls the ruby, the rarity. Who can find this person?

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

We are often blinded by the flaws of someone because of our own flaws.

2. WHAT IS AMAZING IS THAT WHAT THE BIBLE GIVES GREAT VALUE TO, OTHERS LIGHTLY ESTEEM. THAT WHICH IS RARE IS VALUABLE. THAT WHICH IS COMMON IS DIRT. BE YE HOLY. HOLINESS IS RARE AND SO THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS RARE.

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

3. Her price is above rubies, yet give a gem to a pig and will he value it. RUBIES ARE RARE AND THEREFORE VALUABLE.

Pigs wallow in the mud of this world. Worldliness draws worldliness.

Godliness is drawn to godliness. A man who is worldly will not recognize a virtuous women, nor desire such a woman, nor appreciate such a woman.

Heard a fellow who had a large ministry speak to teens once and say that you can put 1000 teens in a room and the rebels will find each other amongst the crowd. So it is with people who are drawn to each other as life partners. A man who does not live for the Lord will not be drawn to a virtuous woman.

II. ANOTHER CHARACTERISTIC OF A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS THAT SHE CAN BE TRUSTED TO DO HER HUSBAND GOOD.

1. SHE CAN BE TRUSTED BY HER HUSBAND.

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

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

A virtuous woman can be trusted. She will do her husband good and not evil.

More and more, we are seeing women who cannot be trusted.

More and more, women are becoming unfaithful.

A virtuous woman is a woman who will remain faithful to her husband. Faithful to her family, faithful to her husband all his life! We see more and more people who would not sacrifice for anyone, not husband, not wife, not father not mother!

2. HER HUSBAND WILL HAVE NO NEED OF SPOIL.

One sin leads to another and then another. HE THAT WILL BE FAITHFUL IN THE LEAST WILL BE FAITHFUL IN MUCH! Part of the trust that her husband can have in her is in the area of finances of the home.

Consider the commandments, the 10th may seem to be the least, but it is the root and door opener to all other sins.

Covetousness is the door opener to all sin.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, **and covetousness, which is idolatry:**

I Timothy 6:10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil:** which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

A woman who cannot be faithful with money often becomes unfaithful in many other areas.

NOTICE IT SAYS, HE SHALL HAVE NO NEED OF SPOIL!

A spoiler is a robber, a thief, one who will causes hurt and destruction.

Many a home had been destroyed by a woman who will rack up credit cards
Be unrestrained when it comes to shopping.

MONEY IS AUTHORITY AND A WOMEN WHO WILL NOT RESPECT MONEY IS A WOMAN THAT USUALLY WILL NOT SUBMIT TO HER HUSBAND.

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

I talked to one man who literally had to declare bankruptcy because of his wife's uncontrolled spending.

3. A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A WOMAN WHO WILL DO HER HUSBAND GOOD ALL HIS DAYS.

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

All his days this is a woman who will be faithful to her husband till death do them part.

Today people say these vows and it means nothing to them.

As the years pass on the evil days will come.
They are days of weakness sickness and trials.

A virtuous woman will do good to her husband all his days, even as he grows older!

Years ago I heard on one of these talk shows a so called experts giving some advice to a woman who called in and said that her husband had Alzheimer's disease. THE COUNSELOR

ASKED THE ONE WHO CALLED IN HOW OLD SHE WAS. She said she was in her 50's. Then the counselor suggested she seek legal counsel to make preparation when her husband got too bad and pursue divorcing him.

We live in a "me my I" generation, out for themselves.

BUT THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A WOMAN COMMITTED FOR LIFE TO HER HUSBAND.

ALL ALL ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE! SHE WILL DO HIM GOOD.

Recently I had a preacher point out that the text even goes further than she doing what we would expect. It literally says, not only will she be faithful all the days of his life, but the text actually says, she will do him good all "HER" days. Meaning she will go to the grave being faithful to her husband till she dies. Though there is no command in the Bible to force a woman to stay un-married after being widowed, yet the Bible does note such woman who have honored their husbands after their death as being special in the area of virtue. We see that in the following passages:

Luke 2:26-37 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

³⁷ And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

¹Tim 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man.

Below is a story of a great woman who sacrificed to do right:

THE STORY OF INA DULEY OGDON BRIGHTEN THE CORNER

" Years ago a little lady, Ina Duley Ogdon, was given a beautiful voice. Someone asked her to sing a concert tour around the world. She had anticipated the day when she could cover the globe and carry the bright light of Christ through her voice. She had signed the contract; the date was set for her journey to begin. Just days before her departure, she found her father was taken seriously ill. No one else could care for him; only she! With some bitterness and much disappointment she canceled her worldwide trip to use her voice to sing the praises of Christ and shine His light around the world!

Inu Duley Ogdon looked at her aged father and saw him as he was nearly dying. She realized that she could not take her trip. Her bitterness changed to joy, her disappointment changed to gratitude as she sat down one day and began to write, "Brighten the corner where you are; brighten the corner where you are; someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar if you brighten the corner where you are!"

What the soloist could not do with her journey, she did with her sweet spirit as it went from her heart to her mind, from her mind to her pen, from her pen to the paper, from the paper to the hymnbook, and from the hymnbook, to the whole world! Not just in her lifetime did she brighten the world, but she will do so as long as the song is sung!

It makes me sick to see so many women who are seeking careers over their families and even to the hurt of their families.

I once heard Hilary Clinton actually make light of women who decide to stay home and raise their families and take care of the home. How sad!

III. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS INDUSTRIOUS, SEEKING THE WELFARE OF HER HOME. HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS SHE DOES FOR THE WELFARE OF HER HOUSE:

1. She is an industrious and creative worker in the home.

Proverbs 31:13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

Proverbs 31:14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

2. INDUSTRIOUS WITH BUYING CLOTHES, BACK THEN THEY HAD TO MAKE THEIR CLOTHES.

Not only did they make their clothes, they had to make the fabric that made the clothes. THESE WERE MADE FROM WOOL AND FLAX! Flax produces linen garments, which were more costly and desirous.

Then with her hands she had to spin the thread, and then weave it into fabric, and from the fabric she would have to make garments. This is a far cry from going into a store and just buying clothes.

3. SHE IS INDUSTRIOUS WITH PROVIDING FOOD FOR HER FAMILY Here, the Virtuous woman rises while it is still night to provide meals for everyone.

Proverbs 31:15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

I remember every Sunday morning, early in the morning before daybreak, I would wake up to the smell of Garlic and Meatballs. Grandma was making Sunday dinner.

Every Sunday like clockwork. I don't ever recall my Grandparents going out to eat.

4. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN WAS INDUSTRIOUS WHEN IT CAME TO BUSINESS.

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

Proverbs 31:17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

Proverbs 31:18 She perceiveth that her merchandise [is] good: her candle goeth not out by night.

Proverbs 31:19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

5. SHE IS IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS. SHE KNOWS HOW TO DO BUSINESS, NOT TO BE RICH BUT TO PROVIDE FOR HER HOUSE.

Here the virtuous woman would actually buy property, fields, and vineyards. Imagine that.

My mom was in the Real Estate business. She had over 10 rental properties. She bought properties, and invested, and planted gardens.

Honestly, I don't know how she did it. IN FACT, THE SONG WE SANG I WROTE IN HONOR OF MY MOM, WHO I CONSIDERED TO BE A VIRTUOUS WOMAN.

6. SHE IS INDUSTRIOUS BECAUSE SHE IS NOT AFRAID TO WORK.

Proverbs 31:17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

The virtuous woman is a woman of strength.

My Mom could outwork my dad. Again, I don't know how she did it.

She worked till the day she died. She was canning tomatoes the day she died.

6. SHE WORKS OVERTIME. HER CANDLE GOETH NOT OUT AT NIGHT.

Proverbs 31:18 She perceiveth that her merchandise [is] good: her candle goeth not out by night.

Proverbs 31:19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

She is not idle. Virtuous women of old would sit with the distaff in their spare time. That is what held the wool or the flax in it's raw form, and with their hands these women would make thread. The thread would then be woven into fabric.

SO IT SAYS HER CANDLE GOETH NOT OUT AT NIGHT, BECAUSE LATE INTO THE NIGHT SHE WOULD SPEND TIME SPINNING THREAD FOR GARMENTS SHE MADE FOR HER HOUSEHOLD.

IV. A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A GIVING UNSELFISH WOMAN.

Proverbs 31:20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

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

Proverbs 31:22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing [is] silk and purple.

She works for others. Her life is wrapped up in others.

She lives for others.

And so when the poor and needy come around she is willing to give to those in need.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

A great attribute of godliness is the willingness to give and sacrifice for others.

Why is she so busy spinning and weaving, was it for herself? NO! NO!

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

Proverbs 31:22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing [is] silk and purple.

She is careful and concerned to clothe her household.

Again, I think of my mom. She never had to worry about what to wear.

She seemed to have a coat when I needed a coat.

She knew better what I needed than me.

NOTE:

Proverbs 31:22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing [is] silk and purple.

Most of the time when you think of a such a woman, we have this image of an old hag that sits in rags looking beastly.

Yet the passage says that she has the house neat and orderly, and clean with coverings of the finest tapestry.

ONCE MORE, I THINK OF MY MOM. HER HOUSE WAS IMMACULATE. She had the walls done over with beautiful wallpaper, the best of furniture, and she, herself, was clothed properly.

Here is a woman who is a keeper of her home.

Here is a woman who also keeps herself pleasant for husband.

This is not the typical scenario where the old lady is home watching soap operas with curlers in her hair, wearing an old bathrobe, and smoking a cigarette.

I heard a story once where there was a woman like this who didn't get her garbage out for the garbage collector in time. When she heard the motor of the garbage truck late one morning she ran outside with a bag of garbage saying, is it too late? The garbage man replied, "No lady hop in."

IV. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN ALLOWS HER HUSBAND TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

1. SHE IS THE SECRET TO HIS SUCCESS.

Proverbs 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

Only those who had their homes in order were qualified to sit in the gate. Most of these positions were unpaid.

A virtuous woman is the key to the success of her husband. Her husband is known in the gates because he was worry free about what was going on at home.

2. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN WAS EVEN IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING HER HAND MADE CLOTHING!

Proverbs 31:24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth [it]; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Here is a woman that was frugal in the area of finances, so much so that she was able to generate her own income through home business projects.

Most women spend. This woman earned money by selling what she made.

IV. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A WOMAN OF STRENGTH AND HONOR.

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

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

Proverbs 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Note: She is clothed with strength and honor.

Her beauty is on the inside and not just the outside.

THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A SPIRITUAL WOMAN.

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

She knows the word of God, and when she speaks she speaks with wisdom.

IN HER MOUTH IS THE LAW OF KINDNESS!

WHAT IS THE LAW OF KINDNESS?

It is the law of love.

LOVE IS KIND. AND THOSE WHO HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD IN THEIR HEARTS WILL SPEAK KINDLY TO OTHERS.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

1 Corinthians 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

1 Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

1 Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether [there be] prophecies, they shall fail; whether [there be] tongues, they shall cease; whether [there be] knowledge, it shall vanish away.

1 Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

1 Corinthians 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Proverbs 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

The Virtuous woman does not eat the bread of idleness.

Idleness is the door opener to all sorts of sin.

THE SIN OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH WAS THAT THEY ATE THE BREAD OF IDLENESS.

Ezekiel 16:49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

Women who are given to idleness are given to gossip and evil and all sorts of wickedness!

How is it that those who have a busy schedule seem to have time to keep things neat and orderly while others who have plenty of time are out of work? Their homes are in shambles and lives are in ruin.

VI. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN HAS A GOOD TESTIMONY AMONGST HER CHILDREN.

Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband [also], and he praiseth her.

Proverbs 31:29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

No one knows you better than your own family.

They know if you are genuine or hypocritical.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE CHILDREN AND THE HUSBAND ALL ATTEST TO HER CHARACTER AND GODLINESS!

VII. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS NOT VAIN AND HER BEAUTY IS NOT ON THE OUTWARD!

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

Proverbs 31:31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Vain beauty, on the outward appearance.

How many women are only wrapped up in their outward appearance?

THIS IS VAIN.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS WHERE IT MUST START!

Was it not Samson that loved the beautiful Philistine women, yet it was his destruction?

What was the downfall of Solomon?

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

VIII. THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS A WOMAN WHOSE LIFE IS FILLED WITH GOOD WORKS!

Proverbs 31:31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

When Dorcas died the disciples noted her good works.

Acts 9:39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

Note how many attested that she was a virtuous women because of the garments and everything she had done.

CONCLUSION:

WHY IS IT WE WANT TO EXALT AND EMULATE SLUTS AND WHORES IN OUR NATION TODAY? SCANTILY CLOTHED SINGERS WHO LOOK WORSE THAN JEZEBEL OF OLD.

Why is it that we hang their images on our walls and listen to their music?

Why do we teach our young girls to want to be like them?

Why do we exalt the wicked and the ungodly of this life?

HERE, THE BIBLE SETS FORTH THE KIND OF WOMEN THAT WE NEED IN OUR NATION TODAY!

WHY WILL WE SEEK THE OPPOSITE?

Who will you desire to emulate?

Who will seek to be like, ladies?

Who will we exalt in the minds of our children?

Today, young girls lack for role models! God help us.

Ladies, be a Proverbs 31 women.

The only way you can be like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 is to be filled with the Spirit of God, the only way you can be filled with the Spirit of God is to ask Jesus into your heart and be saved by the grace of God. This is where it starts.

Is there a time in your life when you called on the name of the Lord for salvation? If not, make this mothers day a day of new birth in your life.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.