

Proverbs 31

Note from Kathy

Some women do not like to read this section of Scripture. Some get frustrated and angry and walk away quickly thinking this is an unattainable goal. I do not believe this section of Scripture was written to point out all the areas where we are lacking. Our heavenly Father added these verses to show us our potential and all the joy there is to be found when we choose his best.

The Proverbs 31 woman is a woman of strong character and great wisdom. She is an inspiration and a beautiful example for women everywhere. The author is not suggesting we attempt to squeeze ourselves into this mold to duplicate her, but that we strive to have the noble character of a woman like this. Let's study her character to see how we may better serve the Lord.

Observation

1. The author of the Proverb began with the question, "Who can find a wife of noble character?" What is the answer to this question? The truth is, she is extremely rare. So, again we are faced with the question, who can find a woman like this?
2. What does the Scripture tell us about the man who finds and marries a woman like this?
3. According to verse 12, how does she treat her husband?
4. Look at verses 10-28. Take a few minutes observing this woman's behavior. Fill in the chart below, summarizing what you learn about this exceptional woman. An example is provided.

Verse	Summarize what you learned about this woman
10	<i>Noble—She is distinguished from common. Virtuous, a woman of high moral principles and ideals</i>
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Verse	Summarize what you learned about this woman
16-18	
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Proverbs 31:30

“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

5. Proverbs 31:30 mentioned charm, beauty, and fear of the Lord. Define these three qualities.

Charm

Beauty

A woman who fears the Lord

Proverbs 31:31

“Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

6. Proverbs 31:31 instructed us to give praise to a virtuous woman. What is it about her that we are to honor?



The Proverbs 31 woman is compared to a precious jewel. Think of the dedication and the process a man goes to in order to find a diamond or ruby. Think of the effort put into finding just one beautiful pearl in nature. Let's be very careful not to beat ourselves up while studying this section. That is not the author's purpose. This is not to be viewed as an inventory of my failures. It is given to us to guide us to lasting change. As women, these are qualities we will share as we are changed into the image of Christ.

Application

It is the Lord's desire that our walk of faith includes: keeping our bodies healthy, because his spirit lives in us; respecting and loving our husbands, children, parents, neighbors, etc., because God is love; living honestly, because our heavenly Father detests lying; and that we work hard at whatever he has given us to do.

Consider this a mirror: you might not know your lipstick is smudged if you did not glance in the mirror. The purpose of a mirror is not to hurt us but to help us. Please know that I am not asking, "have you mastered these areas?" It is the Lord's desire that we consider these qualities. As you consider these questions, listen to the loving voice of your heavenly Father. You are precious in his sight.

1. Only someone dedicated to finding a rare treasure like this will find it. The Proverbs 31 woman is compared to a precious jewel. Think of the process a man goes to in order to find a diamond or a ruby. Think of the effort put into finding just one beautiful pearl in nature. The Lord has these treasures hidden away, and it will take diligence to find them. What must be done to locate even one of them?
2. Am I trustworthy? Is my husband able to have full confidence in me? Having confidence means my husband can relax and trust me whether he is present or not. What are some of those areas of trust?
3. Am I an asset to my husband? If you answer yes, jot down a few ways you are an asset to him. After you answer this question with ways you consider yourself an asset, take a minute and ask him to answer this question.
4. Am I considered a diligent person? Do I make a consistent effort to carry out my responsibilities? What are some of my responsibilities?
5. In what ways do I go out of my way to meet the needs of and care for my family?
6. Do I meet the day with a positive attitude of anticipation for all the day may hold?

7. Do I look for ways to help out financially? (this is not limited to having a job outside the home)
8. Am I keeping myself healthy? Am I eating properly? Have I kept myself in good physical condition so that I can carry out my work each day? (I am not asking you if you look just like you did the day you married.)
9. Would my husband, children, and those who know me best say I am a giving, compassionate person?
10. Am I known for being prepared in case of an emergency?
11. Do I look for ways to make our home a place of refreshment and peace?
12. Is my husband well thought of because of me? Or in spite of me?
13. Am I emotionally and spiritually in good shape?

Have I done what is necessary to keep my own emotional tank filled?

Am I striving to have a closer relationship with the Lord this year than I had last year?
14. Is my conversation known for bringing hurt or healing?

Is my speech filled with wisdom or judgment?

Is my default set to share truth or my opinion most often?
15. Is my relationship with God strong and intimate? What am I doing or prepared to do to deepen my relationship with the Lord?

16. What about me is praise worthy? The world praises outward appearances, talent, and accomplishments. Is this the kind of praise I am seeking?
17. If you have been with us for this entire study you will enjoy thinking back on Ruth, Esther, Hannah, and Lydia. In what way did each of these women reflect the Proverbs 31 woman?

Ruth	
Esther	
Hannah	
Lydia	

18. I am going to end this study with the same question I started with. Who can find a woman like this?

Who can find a woman of such noble character?

My prayer is that after we have spent our time digging for clues we will see she is hidden within each of us. Character is always a choice.

As I write this study guide it is the month of January. January for many of us is a month of evaluation and new beginnings. This is a perfect time for me to choose to listen to God's voice instructing me in areas that need my attention. I am saying "Yes" to this prompting, in order to become a woman of noble character. We will not need to report back as to how we are doing. If we continue with this quest for noble character, it will become obvious. We will become that rare jewel of great value. I will be praying for you and ask that you be praying for me.