

I. Commitment to Her Husband - Prov. 31:10-12

1. Wise to find her (**verse 10**)
 - Rea -what is “noble?”
 - like “rubies” - gems
 2. Ruth is an Old Testament example of noble character - Ruth 3:11
 - valor
 3. Her husband trusts her (**verse 11**)
 - she is totally committed to him
 - Rea -and only him
 - he trusts her judgement/ judgements
 4. She is “valuable”
 5. To have such a wife makes the man’s life more rewarding
 6. She is an asset to him (**verse 12**)
 - she can be counted on (by him)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. In a dating relationship does he find her that way? - or does it take years?
 2. Obviously this passage is about the ideal woman - no woman (or man) is perfect
 3. In choosing a wife it is important to know what to look for - in Proverbs the father has repeatedly tried to counsel his son - so here on this most important decision

II. Wise in Her Work - Prov. 31:13-16

1. Part of her character is to stay busy at her work (**verse 13**)
 - flax and wool
 - flax from a plant, and wool from sheep
 2. Eager hands
 - she does waste time
 - Rea -implies that she is not lazy
 3. Like the merchant ships (verse 14)
 - bring things from afar
 - Rea -she brings something to the table. In our churches there are many who “bring nothing to the table.” They do not contribute (and I’m not talking about money)
 4. She is a worker (**verse 15**)
 - industry
 - she is up and at it early (before sunlight)
 - meals are arranged for family as well as servants
 - Rea -verse 15 seems to be work inside the home but verse 16 shows her busy outside the home as well
 5. Considers a field (**verse 16**)
 - obviously inspecting it
 - out of her earnings
 - Rea Two things this woman does that may seem to us to be unexpected:
 - 1) she purchases a field - not her husband (obviously she has authority to do so)
 - 2) she has “earnings” - she works outside the home
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. A woman's place is in the home??? - discuss in light of verse 16
2. The general idea is... if you have such a woman you are blessed - she is valuable
-but, also, she is a rare commodity - see verse 10
3. So discuss - is she focused on the home - or outside the home?
4. To this point nothing has been said about how "pretty" she is - there are a lot of things more valuable than looks

III. Sure in Her in Reputation - Prov. 31:23-27

1. He is respected because of her (**verse 23**)
2. City gate is where men would gather
-elders - leaders
3. She makes garments (**verse 24**)
-merchants would develop a trained eye for good work - there is a difference
-linen garments
-sashes
4. A person of strength and dignity (**verse 25**)
-like garments she wears these attributes
Rea -I was told once that in no place does the bible say we are to be "dignified" -
hmmm
-because of her work ethic she has confidence in the days to come - she can laugh
at hard times
5. Her words are full of wisdom (**verse 26**)
-she can instruct others in wisdom
Rea -not knowledge, but wisdom (there's a real difference)
-because of wisdom, she can instruct others
Rea -sorry, I have to ask this - instruct other men or women?
Rea -obviously, this woman is not on FaceBook - probably doesn't even have a cell
phone
6. Doesn't eat the bread of idleness (**verse 27**)
Rea -some sins go with idleness - speaks to work ethic

Rea Ideas and Questions:

1. A woman you can look up to - she wins our respect, not because she is a woman (or man) but because of the character of her life
2. When you look at this life you can see what she does with her time
3. Most of the things she does are Old Testament type things... you might expect in their culture- there are a few unexpected tasks:
-purchasing land
-earning an income
-she is not quiet, she speaks with wisdom

IV. Honored Through Fearing God - Prov. 31:28-31

1. Husband and children call her "blessed" (**verse 28**)
-show their appreciation
Rea -they are wise to recognize how "blessed" they are
Rea -"blessed" is a title he gives her
2. She is seen as the best woman in the world (**verse 29**)

- Rea -most women (and men for that matter) respond well to praise
- Rea -you're the "best"
- Rea -here is a family that realize and appreciate what they have
3. Charm and beauty (**verse 30**)
- each are deceptive
- each are fleeting
- Rea -discuss how "charm" and "graciousness" are similar - what about southern "charm?" - both are "deceptive" or skin deep, or passing
- Rea -verse 30 is a "values" verse. What do we really value in a woman/ mother?
4. That woman who fears the Lord is to be praised
- Rea -so her values are correct, and we ought to value such a woman
5. So... honor her (**verse 31**)
- for her hands and what they have done
- in the city gate let everyone know
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. This "honor" (verse 31) is different from "Mother's Day" - once a year
 2. Define "honor" - is it praise, or more?
 3. She is an "honorable" person
 - she is respectable
 4. "In the city gate" - speaks to her reputation
 5. The title of our lesson is "finding" honor - this woman has "earned" her honor

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