

## SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING

Greetings

Pray

Open your bibles please to Proverbs 31

Quick REVIEW:

### SESSION ONE – WHO CAN FIND HER?

We read and focused on verse 10. Let me read it again, **“Who can find a virtuous and capable wife [woman]? [PAUSE] For she is more precious than rubies.**

**I mentioned some** of my struggles looking for a role model, and I can say I was looking in the wrong places.

**I was comparing myself** to others as I was growing up.

**When I became a Christian my relationship with the Lord GREW,** I discovered in God’s Word three (3) simple truths that all Christian men and women should know:

1. We are created by God, He formed us and each of us are uniquely designed.
2. When we accept Christ into our lives, we become a new creation in Christ which means Christ live in us.
3. We are each gifted by God with Spiritual gifts to be used for His glory.

From these truths and from the portrait of the Proverbs 31 woman in the Bible we realized we too can become a virtuous woman. We don't have to look exactly like the Proverbs 31 woman, but she is a role model for us to follow. But remember we cannot and will not ever have the strength to do it on our own. We can only become a virtuous woman, by allowing the Holy Spirit to empower us and to live minute by minute honoring our Heavenly Father, and by walking in God's WORD.

**Movie Example:** "Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?" This quote most of us recognize from **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**.

The mirror in this story is owned by the Wicked Queen who asks this question every day, and the magical mirror never lies. When the Wicked Queen found out that Snow White was consider "**the fairest of them all.**"

The Wicked Queen was then determined to destroy Snow White. Well, we don't need to destroy or put down anyone. Each of us can be the fairest of them all by following Christ. While the enemy of our souls constantly tells us we're not good enough. It's not true. We are a new creation in Christ, and we all can be this fairest of them all – yes, we can all become virtuous woman.

## **SESSION 2 – WHAT DOES SHE LOOK LIKE?**

**We looked at the qualities of this virtuous woman in verses 11-27**

1. She is a woman of Character
2. She is a Hard worker
3. She is Compassionate
4. She is Confident
5. She has Wisdom

**Please remember** that these verses give us a description of the kind of qualities that a godly man should be looking for and **a guide** not a TO-DO-LIST **for a godly woman**. Also, recall, she did not accomplish all these tasks in one day, one month or maybe even one year. And it is the same for each of us. Becoming a Proverbs 31 woman is a lifelong process.

**“Try and try again,”** as the old saying goes. **Some days will be easier than others. BUT WE ALL fail at times** so don't get discouraged just continue seeking the Lord.

Change is never easy. And as they say, “old habits die hard.” But it is **not an impossible** to live like a Proverbs 31 woman with the help of our Heavenly Father and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life that is truer to BIBLICAL STANDARDS and less aligned by WORLDLY TRENDS.

Yes, at times we will fail, we will never be perfect this side of heaven. but we must remember not to give up. Becoming a Proverbs 31 woman is a process.

**Personal Example: When I first** read about the Proverbs 31, Virtuous Woman, she LOOKED SO PERFECT, and WHEN I **compared myself** to her; I said, “self you don't look nothing like her.”

I fail at the simplest of things. I forget things, I lose my temper, I don't always respond quickly enough to help the poor, I don't pray enough, I don't read my Bible enough. I could go on and on. But ladies I don't have to **compare myself** to her or for that matter, I don't need to **compare myself** with anyone.

The Bible tells us what “**she looks like**” so that we can aim to be like her. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can even if it’s only a minute at a time. Remember ladies:

**God’s mercies are new every morning great is His faithfulness.”**  
**Lamentations: 3:22-23**

**Charles Spurgeon** said: “These **mercies** are always **new** because they come from God. “Our treasures, which we lay up on earth, are the stagnant pools; but the treasure which God gives us from heaven, in providence and in grace, is the crystal fount which wells up from the eternal deeps and is always fresh and always new.”

- Every morning ends the night.
- Every morning brings a new day.
- Every morning brings new provision for the day.
- Every morning brings new forgiveness for new sins.
- Every morning brings new strength for new temptations, duties, and trials.”

I didn’t mention it on Saturday morning but there is a great biblical example of a Proverbs 31 woman found in the book of Ruth.

**Ruth is considered an example because of her faithfulness to follow the true living God, she was devoted to her family and was a woman of godly speech. She was kind loving and respectful to her mother-in-law Naomi and to Boaz her kinsman redeemer.**

**Ruth 3:10** “The Lord bless you, my daughter!” Boaz exclaimed. “You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor. **11** Now don’t

worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, **for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman. 12** But while it's true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am.

Ruth wanted what her mother-in-law wanted, and she sought after it whole heartily. Just as God had a plan for her God also has a plan for each one of us.

We also saw that the Proverbs 31 woman's life displayed the **fruit of the spirit**, LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL. (**Galatians 5:22-23**) And as **verse 25 says**, "She is clothed with **strength and courage**" and she used **godly wisdom** and purposed herself to move forward to accomplish her daily tasks.

### **SESSION THREE – HOW DOES SHE DO IT?**

**Proverbs 31:30** "Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last. But a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised."

She has an HONEST, and RESPECTFUL "**FEAR OF THE LORD.**" We were reminded from **verse 30** that **Charm and Beauty ALONE** for a woman doesn't cut it. Charm and beauty can reveal a lot about a person, but it doesn't reveal the true **heart** of that person.

This warning to Lemuel was a warning that charm can be deceiving, and a woman's beauty is not just found in her outward appearance BUT TRUE BEAUTY FLOWS FROM WITHIN HER HEART.

**But we were reminded** from the Bible, how evil the **heart** is and the only one that knows our heart is the Lord. **God is more concerned** about the **heart** of a person than the **outward appearance** of a person.

In Verse 30 we saw the key to what makes this Proverbs 31 woman a "woman of virtue" a woman worth more than rubies. And that is the "**fear the Lord**".

We learned that the beginning of wisdom is **knowledge, a total comprehension** of who God is. And then from this knowledge you gain godly **wisdom**. This **fear of the Lord** is not about keeping our distance from God, but it is about drawing nearer to Him.

And then we learned that because she feared the Lord she would be blessed she would **“be greatly praised.”**

**Verse 28** **“Her children** stand and ble**ss** her. Her husband praises her.” In their eyes she’s the best mom, the best wife.

**Verse 31** it says” reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.” She’s also praised in **her community**.

But this blessing this praise from others was not her sole motivation, nor should “PRAISE” be for any of us who desire to be a Proverbs 31. But that her motivation as should ours only come from a desire from her **heart** to follow God and obey Him.

We also learned how we can gain wisdom and knowledge:

1. Through His Word
2. By asking God for wisdom and knowledge
3. Through mentors and other godly men and women. We should start by getting plugged into a bible teaching church, attending bible studies, and retreats and so on.

I would like to end our study this this weekend by looking deeper at one who is already the picture of perfection; and that is JESUS CHRIST THE GREATEST EXAMPLE DISPLAYED BY THIS PROVERBS 31 WOMAN.

THE TITLE OF MY MESSAGE this morning is:

**WHY BE A PROVERBS 31 WOMAN?**

We looked at the WHO, the WHAT, the HOW and now WHY?

**Final Session Begins**

God's Word has been called the HANDBOOK FOR LIFE and known as God's LOVE LETTER to us.

Remember: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**: All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Reading the Bible helps us to SEE AND KNOW **what God looks like**, and to know God more deeply and to help us to understand our purpose for our life. Why wouldn't we want to do that.

#### **Funny Story –**

A kindergarten teacher was walking around her classroom while her students drew pictures. One little girl was scribbling so intently that the teacher asked what she was drawing. The little girl replied, "I'm drawing a picture of Jesus." The teacher said, "Oh honey, nobody really knows for sure what Jesus looked like." The little girl, without missing a beat, responded, "They will in a minute."

When we read the Bible, we begin to see Jesus throughout the Scripture.

**OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE SHOULD NOT** be for personal gain or satisfaction from every little action we do. It wasn't the purpose for the Proverbs 31 woman. **OUR PURPOSE SHOULD NOT** be for praise or glory from man. That wasn't the Proverbs 31 woman's sole purpose either.

I believe **OUR PURPOSE SHOULD BE** to follow the true living God and to become **MORE LIKE CHRIST**. A picture of Christ is what this Proverbs 31 woman is an example of.

### **Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT**

**Paul also says: Imitate God**, therefore, **in everything you do** because you are his dear children. <sup>2</sup> Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us<sup>[a]</sup> and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a **pleasing aroma** to God.

When we read and study God's Word, we become more and more aware of **His attributes**, **His character**, **His faithfulness**. Our relationship grows and we learn to live our lives in accordance with His will.

And as I studied the Proverbs 31 woman I **ZOOMED OUT** and took a larger look at her and saw how it was a **PICTURE OF THE FORESHADOWING AND FULFILLMENT OF JESUS CHRIST OUR PERFECT KING**.

And then I **ZOOMED IN** to see specific details. And I discovered how much the **PROVERBS 31 WOMAN IS LIKE A PICTURE OF CHRIST** and his Love for us. I would like to read the descriptions I saw of Jesus.

**Please listen to my Paraphrased version of the Proverbs 31 woman with my focus on Jesus Christ**

**Jesus** is more precious than any jewel.

**HE** is trustworthy

**HE** will greatly enrich our life.

**HE** brings good not harm, all the days of our life



**He** will clothe us and provide for us

**HE** purchased us with His own blood. [He laid down His life to buy us and free us from sin]

**HE** is strong” [He is our Strong tower]

**HE** is not lazy since He carries our burdens

**HE** is profitable to those who seek Him and find Him

**HE** is our light at night [He never sleeps, and JESUS is the light of the world]

**HE** extends His hands to the poor and needy

**HE** is always prepared” He has covered us in scarlet. He has redeemed us.

**HE** has no fear of the future for He holds the future in His hands

**HE** is all knowledge, and He is all wisdom

**HE** instructs us with love and kindness” [He is a compassionate Savior]

**HE** blesses us beyond measure.”

Can you see Jesus Christ weaved into these verses in Proverbs 31?

## **Our Greatest Aim**

Now that you see Jesus Christ throughout Proverbs 31 our greatest aim should be to be like Christ.

In a book I recently read called “Pleasing God” by Kay Smith [Chuck Smith’s beloved wife].

**Kay wrote**, “Pleasing God should be our greatest aim – a goal that simplifies and covers every part of our lives. The question shouldn’t be, ‘Is this thing right or wrong?’ The question needs to be, ‘Is this pleasing God?’

**Do our lives please God?**

**How are we living a life that is pleasing to God?**

**How do the daily chores in my life pleasing to God?**

**Are the things I spend time on pleasing to God?**

**Is what I’m going every single day pleasing to God?**

**How does our life reflect Christ?**

This Proverbs 31-woman points to and is a **picture of Christ**, who is our future Bridegroom. All who have trusted the Lord and received salvation by grace through faith are counted as His Bride. Yes, we the church both men and women are the bride of Christ.

And **one day soon**, Jesus will be gathering His Bride [the Church] for the wedding banquet in heaven.

**How did Christ love the church?** It says in **Ephesians 5:25** that He gave up his life for her.

Because Christ endured the cross for us. He has bought us and redeemed us. He has clothed us in His righteousness.

And through this passage of scripture in Proverbs 31, God's WORD gives us an excellent example to help **MOLD US** and **SHAPE US** into **HIS BRIDE**, that He created us to be.

**And one day** when He returns, we will be the PERFECT BRIDE as described here in Proverbs 31.

**Until then: This is important ladies:**

The challenge for all of us as we leave here this weekend is, **decide to follow Jesus closer than ever before. Not just going through the motions**, but with a **real, sincere desire to pursue Him**, and **rest in HIS perfect, complete, finished work on the cross** and to live a life of wisdom through the Holy Spirts power and strength?

Are you drawing your strength from Him?

Are you abiding in Him as He faithfully completes the good work that He has begun in you?

If not, why not? Remember He is the vine and we are His branches.

Is our desire to be an imitator of God, and do we want to model our life after Him?

Are we faithfully spending time in prayer and in His Word so we can do that?

Are we being obedient to His Word?

Either you are or you are not.

## READING – WOMEN OF THE WORD

I'd like to read a short passage from **Jen Wilkens** book "**Women of the Word**". Please listen carefully

"We become what we behold. Do you believe that? Whether passively or actively, we become conformed to the pattern we spend the most time studying.

Upon what is your gaze fixed? Your bank account? Your bathroom scale? Your child's next accolade? Your dream kitchen? The latest blockbuster TV series? (this was written in 2014) Your phone?

It is the nature of this life that we must fight daily to make room in our line of sight for that which transcends. Many things hold a legitimate claim on our attention, but when our eyes are free from the two-year-old or the spreadsheet or the textbook or the dinner dishes, where do we turn them? If we spend our time gazing only on lesser things, we will become like them, measuring our years in terms of human glory.

**But here is good news:** the One whom we most need to behold has made himself known. He has traced with a fine hand the lines and contours of his face. He has done so in his Word. We must search for that face, though babies continue to cry, bills continue to grow, bad news continues to arrive unannounced, though friendships wax and wane, though both ease and **difficulties** weaken our grip on godliness, though a thousand other face crowd close for our attention.

**By fixing our gaze on that face, we trade mere human glory for holiness:** “Beholding the glory of the Lord, (we are) transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another” (2 Cor. 3:18)

**Jen Wilkens quote continues...**

**There are really only two possibilities in this life:** be conformed to the image of God or be conformed to the pattern of this world.....

So, make a faithful study of the One you want to imitate, as a dearly love child. Study everything that makes God wonderful and mimic to your heart’s delight, as the joyful expression of your reciprocal love for him. Respond as David did; “My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I see” (psalm 27:8) To the one who seeks him, the Lord is pleased to lift up his countenance, both now and forever. Study well the contours of his face. Let gazing on his loveliness touch mind and heart. And be transformed.

**Romans: 12:2** “Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Reading God’s Word) Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.”

So, Ladies as WE SEEK TO BE OUR OWN VERSION of “Proverbs 31” the woman God created each of us one be; let us be that **“woman of valor”** that **“Eshet Chayil”** woman and let us not lose hope of becoming her for our **hope is in Christ.**

**Question?** Do you believe that we become what we behold?  
Who or what are our eyes fixed on?

Are we renewing our minds daily in His Word?  
Is our hope truly in Christ?  
Is every woman here sure as we depart that they have Christ living in them?

I found a poem author unknown, but I think it speaks volumes to what we have if we are in

**In Christ We Have:**

A love that can never be fathomed  
A life that can never die  
A righteousness that can never be tarnished  
A peace that can never be understood  
A rest that can never be disturbed  
A joy that can never be diminished  
A hope that can never be disappointed  
A glory that can never be clouded  
A light that can never be darkened  
A purity that can never be defiled  
A beauty that can never be marred  
A wisdom that can never be baffled  
Resources that can never be exhausted.

Love, life, righteousness, peace, rest, joy, hope, glory, light, purity, beauty, and wisdom **ALL THESE QUALITIES ARE FOUND IN CHRIST!!**

Are these qualities you would love to possess?

In closing: **Why be a Proverbs 31 woman?**

**Simply put**, because the Proverbs 31 woman is a picture of Christ the One, we should desire to be more like. The Proverbs 31 woman is set here in scripture as an example for all women to follow.

So, I pray that when you return home you and I take a few more moments to reread Proverbs 31 as a review and to mediate on these Scripture verses during our quiet time to remind ourselves of what a beautiful tribute to woman she is.

Also, to remind us there is **nothing more beautiful** than a woman who is righteous and loves God.

**A woman who has that right relationship with God**, combined with a **woman who fears the Lord** is unstoppable.

For this woman so beautifully described in these verses is the picture of the perfection that we can attain as Christ works in us and through us.

**Let us Pray!**

**End Session 4**