

Sunday School – Week #4: Woman - Wisdom through Love

Something I neglected to mention last week is that all we know of King Lemuel is what we find in this first verse of Proverbs 31, so not a lot. He was a king, had a wise mother and wrote poetry.

- 1) Some believe that Lemuel may actually be a pet name for King Solomon and his wise mother would therefore be Bathsheba.
- 2) Fictional characters created by Solomon.

Last week we mentioned that marriage needs a man and marriage needs a woman.

Remember from week 1

- 1) Complimentary means lots of similarities, but also some difference
- 2) It means that the roles of men and women fit together to encompass the whole of the human calling.
- 3) And just as marriage requires a man, it also requires a woman.

The difference being that last week we saw how the love of a man was reflected by his strength (service, compassion, seeking common good), here we see that the strength of a woman is reflected in her love.



- 1) She is not God, she realizes this and rests in this in humility
- 2) She is not animal living by appetites and instincts, she has self-control, is governed, can see the greater good.
- 3) She is not girl, she has matured and has wisdom and responsibility
- 4) She is designed differently than man

So all women should long to mature according to the descriptions of Proverbs 31:10-21. Married women need to do so in order to grow as wives: unmarried women need to do so both to inhabit God's design and if it be his will to be wife material.

Proverbs 31:

- ¹⁰ An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.
- ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
- ¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
- ¹³ She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.
- ¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.
- ¹⁵ She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.
- ¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷ She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.
- ¹⁸ She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.
- ¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
- ²⁰ She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.
- ²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.
- ²² She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- ²³ Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.
- ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.
- ²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
- ²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- ²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- ²⁸ Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
- ²⁹ "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
- ³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
- ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

We need to remember this portion is a poem, so the overall impression is more important than the components. But drawing out the components can be helpful as we look for how this ought to shape our lives and, if we're married, our marriages.

Main Point(s): Work and Keep – Wisdom through Love

- Loves the Lord (31:30-31)
- Loves her husband (31:10-12, 23)
- Loves her family (31:15, 26-29)
- Loves her neighbors (13-14, 16-18, 20)