

Lesson 6 - Faithfulness & Management

(1) The wise woman is faithful.
Proverbs 31:12

Principles regarding faithfulness:

(a) Faithfulness is only seen over time – and is seen day to day.

The Hebrew word for day “yowm” which means: sunrise to sunset, continually, daily, each day, perpetually.

(b) Faithfulness is possible through a focus on Christ.

Hebrews 12:1-2

From these verses, how can you remain faithful in the monotony and dreariness of life?

Remember that others have gone before us.

Remember all that Jesus has done for us.

Remember that there is a reward for faithfulness.

Remember that Jesus has a goal for us – and is working in us. He is both the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Focus our attention, without distraction, on Him.

(b) Our faithfulness is to mirror His faithfulness.

The wise woman’s faithfulness is day to day --- the faithfulness of God.

Lam. 3: 22-23 God’s faithfulness is new for each new day.

(d) Faithfulness implies there is a trust given to us.

I Corinthians 4:2

We are called to be faithful stewards.

(2) The wise woman manages her resources, time and finances as a faithful steward.

Proverbs 31:13-16, 18, 24, 27

Proverbs 31 refers to the wise woman as having resources and using her resources wisely.

Matthew 25:14-30.

What does this parable teach us about use of resources?

Principles:

- Our resources come from God.
- God is interested in how we invest the resources
- We are stewards of resources.
- We can be wise or squander those resources.
- God is not interested in how many talents we have, but how we use what we have.
- God will call us into account.
- Faithfulness in small things is rewarded with administration of larger things.
- God commands us to invest.
- The profit margin is God's.
- The resources are on loan.
- There will be profound regret if we do not invest.

What are the resources that the wise woman has?

(1) Finances and material goods/assets

Proverbs 31: 13, 15, 16, 24

(2) Abilities and Talents

- v. 13, v. 19, v. 24 working with wool and flax
- v.14 buyer
- v. 15 cook
- v. 16 business sense
- v. 22 – craft skills

(3) Time

Proverbs 31:15, 18

How does she manage her material and financial assets?

- (a) With deliberateness and forethought.
- (b) Purposeful purchases.
- (c) With awareness of the Market.

How does she use her abilities?

- (a) Puts her abilities to good use.
- (b) She is not lazy.

Proverbs 31:19, 27

Admonitions against laziness:

Proverbs 6:6-11.

Proverbs 10:4-5

Proverbs 12:24, 27

Proverbs 14:23

How does she manage her time?

She structures her time around the needs of her household.

Applications:

What are some time-management techniques that you can utilize to make better use of time?

Do you have a budget for your household?

Review your expenses. Are there any incidental charges on your bills that you can discontinue? How does your budget reflect a priority for God's purposes and plans?

Principles in Proverbs Regarding Wise use of Resources

Prov. 6:10, 11	A little sleep – your poverty comes like an armed man
10:2	Treasures of wickedness profit nothing
10:3	The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish
10:4	He who has a slack hand becomes poor; but the hand of the diligent makes rich
10:5	He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.
11:4	Riches do not profit in the day of wrath
11:24	There is one who scatters, yet increase more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty
11:25	The generous soul shall be made rich
11:28	He who trusts in his riches will fall
12:11	He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread; but he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding
12:27	The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession.
13:4	The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.
13:7	There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; there is one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.
13:11	Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.
14:23	In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty.
15:16	Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, then great treasure with trouble.
15:17	Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, then a fatted calf with hatred.
15:27	He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.
20:15	There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.
21:17	He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.
22:9	He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.
23:4	Do not overwork to be rich; because of your understanding, cease!
23:17	Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; for surely there is a hereafter, and your hope shall not be cut off.
24:27	Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field: and afterward build your house.

27:23, 24	Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds, for riches are not forever.
28:20	A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.
29;13	The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: the Lord gives light to the eyes of both.

Principles:
