

Far Above Rubies

Single people stand – All the single ladies...all the single ladies...

Proverbs 31:10-31 –

- 10** Who can find a virtuous and capable wife?
She is more precious than rubies.
- 11** Her husband can trust her,
and she will greatly enrich his life.
- 12** She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.
- 13** She finds wool and flax
and busily spins it.
- 14** She is like a merchant's ship,
bringing her food from afar.
- 15** She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her
household and plan the day's work for her servant
girls.
- 16** She goes to inspect a field and buys it;
with her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17** She is energetic and strong,
a hard worker.
- 18** She makes sure her dealings are profitable;
her lamp burns late into the night.
- 19** Her hands are busy spinning thread,
her fingers twisting fiber.
- 20** She extends a helping hand to the poor
and opens her arms to the needy.

- 21** She has no fear of winter for her household,
for everyone has warm clothes.
- 22** She makes her own bedspreads.
She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns.
- 23** Her husband is well known at the city gates,
where he sits with the other civic leaders.
- 24** She makes belted linen garments
and sashes to sell to the merchants.
- 25** She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future.
- 26** When she speaks, her words are wise,
and she gives instructions with kindness.
- 27** She carefully watches everything in her household
and suffers nothing from laziness.
- 28** Her children stand and bless her.
Her husband praises her:
- 29** “There are many virtuous and capable women in the
world, but you surpass them all!”
- 30** Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last;
but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly
praised.
- 31** Reward her for all she has done.
Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

Far Above Rubies

Worth and Value –

- Their value is far above Gold and Rubies. Who can find one...
- History records

- Past indignities of treating women like animals or property.
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- Talk about their pay
 - Women are almost half of the workforce. They are the equal, if not main, breadwinner in four out of ten families. They receive more college and graduate degrees than men. Yet, on average, women continue to earn considerably less than men. In 2013, female full-time workers made only 78 cents for every dollar earned by men, a gender wage gap of 22 percent.
- Their place in society
- Girls allowing men to treat them any way

The Bible continually affirms that women are extraordinary. Women have value and worth that is in every way equal to men. Women are no mere afterthought, but are an integral and equal part of God's design for human beings. The Bible is unique in that it honors women as *women*, exalting them for their femininity, and encouraging them to seek honor in a uniquely feminine and God-glorifying way.

Prominent Roles in Scripture –

Women in church:

- Samaritan Woman by the well

- Deborah the Judge who delivered the Children of Israel from the Caananite King Jabin who mercilessly oppressed the Jews and equally cruel and brutal general Sisera.
- Jael- Married to Heber a decendent of Jethro, Moses Father-In-Law. (Midianite)
- Esther who delivered all of the Jews from destruction by her grace and wisdom.
- Mary who God chose to bless above all women by her carrying in her bosom the Salvation of the World!
- Mary Magdalene Jesus delivered her from 7 demon spirit which oppressed her. The first person to see Jesus after his resurrection.

- Thank God they did not stay silent...but testified as firsthand eye-witnesses of the cornerstone of the Christian faith...that is Christ's resurrection and fulfillment.

- **Rahab The Harlot** –

2 Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, “Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho.” So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night.

2 But someone told the king of Jericho, “Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” **3** So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: “Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land.”

4 Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, “Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn’t know where they were from. 5 They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don’t know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them.” 6 (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.) 7 So the king’s men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king’s men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut.

8 Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. 9 “I know the Lord has given you this land,” she told them. “We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. 10 For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. 11 No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.

12 “Now swear to me by the Lord that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that 13 when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families.”

14 “We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety,” the men agreed. “If you don’t betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the Lord gives us the land.”

15 Then, since Rahab’s house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window. 16 “Escape to the hill country,” she told them. “Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way.”

17 Before they left, the men told her, “We will be bound by the

oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions.
18 When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house. 19 If they go out into the street and are killed, it will not be our fault. But if anyone lays a hand on people inside this house, we will accept the responsibility for their death. 20 If you betray us, however, we are not bound by this oath in any way.”

21 “I accept your terms,” she replied. And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window.

22 The spies went up into the hill country and stayed there three days. The men who were chasing them searched everywhere along the road, but they finally returned without success.

- 23 Then the two spies came down from the hill country, crossed the Jordan River, and reported to Joshua all that had happened to them. 24 “The Lord has given us the whole land,” they said, “for all the people in the land are terrified of us.”

Rahab married Salmon – Had Boaz! Boaz Great Grandfather of King David!

God Honors Women all throughout the scriptures!
God tells men to honor them and children to honor them

God's Gift –

It is not good for man to be alone...

- All the animals had a mate but man had none.

- Not an Xbox ONE
- Not Golf Clubs
- German Shepherd
- He did not make another man...buddies...dudes or partners.
- He made a woman!

“At Last!!!”

A Woman is God’s perfect gift to men and God’s perfect gift for Families!

Genesis 2:18,21-25 –

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. **22** Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

23 “At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!

She will be called ‘woman,’

because she was taken from ‘man.’”

24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Motherhood –

The world is a cruel place but isn't it awesome that God gives us mothers to greet us as we enter this world. To see and to know love...a mother's love for her child is a picture of God's love, protection and adoration for each of us. By knowing a mother's love we are introduced to our Father's love.

No matter what your background God says you are valuable...more precious than Rubies! Far Above Rubies!

Honoring Mothers and Honoring God –

- If they are beautiful
- Strong
- Loving
- Wise
- Full of Grace
- Worthy of honor...the one who created them is worthy of honor!!