Proverbs 31 – The Wisdom of Godly Leadership and the Character of a Virtuous Woman

I. The Instruction of a Mother: Wisdom for a Godly Leader (31:1–9)

A. The Importance of Receiving Wise Instruction (vv. 1–2)

-King Lemuel recalls the instruction his mother gave him.
-Wisdom should be received from those who have experience and understanding.
-Godly instruction helps shape character and future decisions.
-Leadership begins with a willingness to listen and learn.

B. The Danger of Compromising Your Strength (v. 3)

-Do not give your strength to destructive relationships.
-Guard your character, reputation, and calling.
-A person's greatest strengths can be wasted through foolish decisions.
-Self-control is essential to living wisely.

C. The Responsibility of Maintaining Clear Judgment (vv. 4–7)

-Leaders must avoid anything that impairs their judgment.
-Alcohol and excess can lead to compromised decisions.
-Those in positions of responsibility must remain clear-minded.
-Leadership requires discipline, restraint, and sound judgment.

D. The Calling to Defend the Vulnerable (vv. 8–9)

-Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.
-Defend the rights of the poor and needy.
-Exercise authority with justice and righteousness.
-Godly leadership uses influence to protect others rather than benefit itself.

II. The Character and Virtues of a Godly Woman (31:10–31)

A. Her Worth and Trustworthiness (vv. 10–12)

-Her value is far above rubies.
-Her character is more valuable than outward possessions.
-Her husband has complete confidence in her.
-She consistently brings good rather than harm.
-Her faithfulness is demonstrated throughout her life.

B. Her Diligence and Work Ethic (vv. 13–19)

-She works willingly and joyfully with her hands.
-She is resourceful, productive, and industrious.
-She manages her household with intentionality.
-She rises early and provides for those under her care.
-She considers opportunities and makes wise investments.
-She approaches her responsibilities with strength and determination.
-She is not afraid of hard work.

C. Her Generosity and Compassion (vv. 20–22)

-She extends her hand to the poor and needy.
-Her concern goes beyond her immediate family.
-She prepares her household for difficult seasons.
-She provides her family with wisdom and care.
-Her generosity reflects a heart that values people.

D. Her Influence and Reputation (vv. 23–24)

-Her character contributes to her husband's respect and reputation.
-Her influence extends beyond the home.
-She is capable, productive, and entrepreneurial.
-Her work creates opportunities and benefits others.
-Her life demonstrates the influence of godly character.

E. Her Strength, Dignity, and Wisdom (vv. 25–27)

-She is clothed with strength and honor.
-She faces the future with confidence rather than fear.
-She speaks with wisdom and kindness.
-Her words bring instruction, encouragement, and guidance.
-She is attentive to the needs and responsibilities of her household.
-She refuses to live carelessly or passively.

F. Her Honor and Reward (vv. 28–31)

-Her children recognize and bless her.
-Her husband acknowledges and praises her.
-Her life demonstrates that godly character is greater than outward beauty.
-The fear of the Lord is the foundation of her true worth.
-She deserves recognition for her faithful labor.
-Her influence and good work should be publicly acknowledged.