

The Virtuous Woman—Blueprint for the Kingdom

I. Introduction

The virtuous woman (Proverbs 31:10-31) contains the words of life.

It is a parable, that has great wisdom, insights, and depth, hidden within it. It is a word blueprint for living a joyous, fulfilling, well balanced life in a manner designed of God. This parable contains words of life even words that will lead us to eternal life. Let us start our study by looking at the word blueprint.

- A. Words of council from Bathsheba to her son, King Solomon.
 1. In Strongs Concordance name Lemuel means "name of Solomon- Lemuel"
 2. Bathsheba is well known for her mistakes, but somewhere along her journey she must have gained spiritual insight and spiritual growth. This is evident because her words to Solomon are not only profound but inspired.
- B. Words not only wise, but also inspired by the Holy Spirit. Solomon felt that they were important enough to be recorded and saved for future generations. It is too bad that Solomon himself did not seek for a virtuous woman. Instead he lusted after many women, which was not pleasing to God. Indeed his failure to follow the inspired words given to him by his mother brought the influence of idol worship into the kingdom through his many heathen wives. Eventually this idol worship would bring about the destruction of the nation of Israel.
- C. Words that have stood the test of time. Words that carry a blueprint for living a joyful, meaningful and totally balanced life in any day and age.
- D. Words that prove God's great love for his earthly daughters. Just think, God designed a special blueprint just for women. The parable of the virtuous woman (I tend to think of it more as a parable than a proverb, because it has hidden meaning like a parable) is a written demonstration of God's love for his daughters who dwell upon this earth.
 1. God loves us so very much. Sometimes it is easy for us to forget that it was His great love that nailed Him to the cross. The nails did not hold Him there. Indeed no army or force could have held Him to that cross if He had not chosen to be there. John15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
 2. When we love someone, we desire that they reach their full potential. This is God's desire for us His handmaidens. He desires all our gifts and talents to be developed and used to bless those around us and glorify God. He wants us to reach our full potential.
 - a. Luke 2:52 "and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." We see by this description that Jesus grew mentally (wisdom), physically (in stature), spiritually (in favor with God), and socially (favor with men). We need to follow the example set by Jesus. We need to reach our full potential in all these areas. We need to have well- balanced lives. The blueprint found in this parable shows us how to do this. God in His great love for us, has given us a blueprint to assist us in

developing our full potential and living well-balanced lives.

- E. Words that give evidence of the importance of women in society and the world around us. God, knowing the power and influence that He gave woman, also gave her this blueprint to follow. It is a light to call her to a higher level, a standard to strive for, a guide to direct her pathway through life. For a woman has the power to influence, and will use that influence either for good or bad. The old statement "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" is true. Women were created with the power to influence all of society.

- 1. See handout on (Virtuous Women of the Scriptures)

- F. Words of eternal life

We will find within this parable, hidden depth, that points us to eternal life.

Eternal life is God's greatest desire for all of His children here on earth.

John 3:16 " For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life."

- G. (To sum it up) In this parable for women God gives to us, his daughters, a blueprint that will set our feet on the pathway to eternal life; and will help us in placing our children's feet on this same pathway.

II. Foundation—The Foundation of a Virtuous Woman (Pro.31:30)

- A. To follow the blueprint correctly we must build on the same foundation as the virtuous woman. We find in verse 30 that her foundation is "the fear of the Lord."
- B. This foundation assures us of not only a joyful, meaningful, balanced life, in this life; but also assures us of a place in the Kingdom of God in the next life. It is the solid foundation to build on for eternal life.
 - 1. See handout (The Foundations of a Virtuous Woman)
 - 2. note: Mal.3:16-18, III Nephi 11:19-24, Rev. 11:18
- C. (On the surface) It sounds simple when we say we must fear the Lord. This type of fear, where we believe in God, trust Him, and obey Him is very challenging, but necessary if we desire to truly be like the virtuous woman of Proverbs.
 - 1. See handout (The Foundations of a Virtuous Woman)
 - a. Note: Deu.6:2-17 Here is a list of things to do. Think about how you can apply these to your life today.
 - b. Deu. 5:29 carries a beautiful promise to those who fear Him.
 - c. I Cor. 3:9-15 tells us what foundation to build on.

(For more information, see Peggy Feagins' class on Fear of the Lord)

III. The Completed Blueprint

Pro.31:10 "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

- A. In this opening verse we see the picture of the completed design, much as we see the picture of a finished house on the front of a set of blueprints. Inside we will find more detailed instruction, but it is always nice to get a glimpse of the finished product. It makes the work easier when you have a picture of the end

result. It gives you encouragement and the determination to hang in there through difficulty, and finish the task, when you can see a picture or blueprint of the finished project.

- B. (In depth) In Proverbs 31 we find a bridegroom looking for a virtuous woman to marry. This bridegroom of Proverbs corresponds with the bridegroom found in Matthew 25:1-12. In the parable in Matt. we understand that the bridegroom is Christ, and we find the 10 virgins waiting for the bridegroom. The 10 virgins are those in the church who wait for the return of Jesus. Not all wait with oil in their lamps. Only the 5 wise have oil in their lamps. The oil is the Holy Spirit. Only those with oil will be able to be a part of the wedding celebration. The virtuous woman of Proverbs is the same as the wise virgins. She has oil in her lamp. Pro.31:18 ". . .her candle goeth not out by night."

In (Mal.3:16-18) we learn that when Christ returns He will be making up His jewels. The virtuous woman will be one of those jewels. Her value as a jewel is even beyond that of rubies. When the Bridegroom returns, do we not want to be the bride who has oil in her lamp and who is as a ruby? Do we not want to be a jewel fit to be placed in the crown of the king, a woman who is virtuous, a wise virgin with oil in her lamp, a ruby fit to be claimed by the Bridegroom Himself, Jesus Christ?

Sec. 45:10 b-c "And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived, verily I say unto you, They shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire but shall abide the day, and the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance;"

1. Please note Pro. 31:18 that the virtuous woman has a "candle that goeth not out by night"; she is like the virgins in Matt. 25 who wait for the bridegroom, with their lamps trimmed and burning.
 - a. In Strong's concordance a candle means a lamp or light.
 - b. The virtuous woman of Proverbs does not let her lamp go out even at night. Even in times of discouragement, disappointment, or in the darkest trial, her light burns brightly. She is ready for the Bridegroom, and joyfully waits for the wedding celebration which will be hers to partake of when the wedding day arrives.
- C. (To sum it up) This is the final completed design. This is the goal of a virtuous woman, and God's plan for us His handmaidens. To be His bride, to be one of His precious jewels, to be that wise virgin with oil in her lamp, and to dwell with Him eternally is His desire and plan for us. As virtuous women this should be our goal in life, and all that we plan and do should lead us towards that one great goal of eternal life. This is what this parable of the virtuous woman is all about. It is a blueprint to assist us in reaching that one great goal. The goal of eternal life.
- D. (On the surface) Yes, any man who can find a woman, who has as her foundation "The Fear Of The Lord," he has indeed found a jewel whose price

is far above rubies. Young men who are seeking to marry would be wise to search for such a young woman. It seems many of the young men in the church do not consider this counsel found in Proverbs. Like Solomon they, too, often let lust lead them, instead of the words of wisdom given in this beautiful description of a virtuous woman.