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Virtuous Woman-Blueprint for the Kingdom Class 3

VI. A Blueprint for Choosing Wisely

Pro. 31:16 "She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard."

(In depth) She considereth a field and buyeth it. This does not mean, as one book I read suggested, that she sold real estate. I knew that the field was the Kingdom, and corresponded with the parable in Mat. 13:46 of the Kingdom, but I did not know how to bring evidence of that in the class, until I went to Strong's Concordance. In Strong's I found (in the Hebrew):

Field: # 7704= Flat Field

7707 & 7704= the same root word =spreader of light

7707=217=flame, region of light

217=215=break of day, glorious, shine

215=216=lightening, happiness

217=222=flame of God

222=410=Mighty God (this leads us to many names for God)

410=460=God is the gatherer

410=3050=Sacred name, The Lord

3050=3068=Jehovah (this also leads to many different

names for God) Jehovah etc.

This region of light that breaks forth as a glorious day and shines is God's Kingdom, even the city of Zion. God will gather his people there and He will dwell with them.

This is the field that the virtuous woman must buy. [Go to hand out: The Field]

To continue on, we go to Mat. 13:46. There we find the parable of the kingdom of heaven. In this parable we are told that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field. "When a man hath found a treasure which is hid, he secureth it, and, straightway, for joy thereof, goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." This is what the virtuous woman is doing. She is buying the field.

B. To buy the field we must come to terms with which kingdom we are going to serve-the eternal Kingdom or the temporal kingdom of this earth.

Joshua 24:14-27-in this story of choosing, Joshua said, ". . .choose you this day whom ye will serve. . ." Go and read this story. This is the choosing that we must do. Ask yourself if God is first in your life. Is He first in everything you do? Do the small goals you set each day keep you on the pathway to eternal life?

In Luke 10:39-43 we find another story on choosing. Here Mary and Martha are making choices. "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; But one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Are you choosing that good part which shall not be taken away or are you choosing the temporal things of this world that pass away? Where are your priorities? What are your goals, where are they leading you? These are all questions we need to stop and ask ourselves. Sometimes if we find ourselves troubled about many things, we need to stop and ask some serious questions. Ask yourself if, like the virtuous woman, you are buying the field that holds the treasure.

1. Look at your priorities

- a. Do you spend more time watching TV than in study of God's word etc.?

When she bought the field she paid a price. She actually gave up something to purchase the field. What do you need to give up to buy the field?

Verse 16 continues ". . .with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard." The very act of choosing as her first love, her God and His Kingdom, is the fruit of her hand. The word vineyard in Strong's Concordance takes us to the Hebrew root word:

#3754= Garden, increase of the vineyard

3754=1021=House of the vineyard

1021=1004=House of God

1004=410=The Almighty God (names of God)

We see here that the vineyard is connected to God. What vineyard is connected to God? In John 15: 1-16 we find the parable of the vine. In this Jesus said "I am the vine, ye are the branches." The virtuous woman has chosen to stay connected to the vine. This very act has produced a whole vineyard of fruit to supply and enrich her family and those around her.

In Gal.5:22-23 We see the fruits of the Spirit listed-fruits such as love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. These are the fruits that her vineyard produces. When we walk in the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit are produced in our lives.

Testimony: My sister was separated from her husband and still had several children at home. She moved down the street from us, so we could help her with her children. One of her sons started having difficulty in school and would not get up and get on the school bus. When my sister would get to work, she would call me and tell me if David did not get up. He was in high school and could not keep missing days. I would get dressed and go down to her house and roust him out and drive him to school. This got really old as winter set in. I would get dressed in warm clothes, sometimes clean the snow off my car and drive him several miles to the school. My own teenagers were already on the bus on the way to school. One morning I had a terrible headache and generally felt very bad. The call came. David was still in bed. Oh, I was so angry. I threw on some clothes and headed out. I was thinking about all the things I was going to tell him. Then I realized that I was too angry, and I started to pray and ask God to renew a right spirit within me. During the prayer, a beautiful peaceful spirit filled the car, and God allowed me to see my nephew as

He saw him. I saw many of his gifts and talents. I saw that he would be able to do anything with his hands. I even felt God's love for David. When I got to the house I went in and sat on his bed and talked softly to him. I told him of God's love and my love for him. I told him that he was a great kid and he had many gifts and talents. He responded and we had a really good talk. He promised me that he would do better, and he did. Later when I thought about this experience I realized that the Holy Spirit had blessed me with the fruit of love and gentleness that morning. It is through the Spirit that these fruits are manifest in our lives. It was just what my nephew needed.

Read: John 15:1-12, and Gal.5:22-23

(To sum it up) The virtuous woman by choosing to buy the field has chosen God's Kingdom and eternal life. Because of this choice, she stays connected to her God and His Spirit flows freely into her life, hence she produces fruit. She has a whole vineyard of fruit for her family and others. The fruits of the Spirit grow in her vineyard. The fruits of love, peace, joy, etc. etc. all abound.

(On the surface) The virtuous woman is a good businesswoman. She is industrious, thrifty, organized, administrative, enterprising and wise. She is a hard worker and produces surplus for her family. This may take place in a variety of ways. However she does it, she is thrifty and brings surplus into the household. I think of Lucy Mack Smith and how she painted designs on oilcloth and sold them as tablecloths to earn extra money for her family. There are many ways to bring surplus into a family: from working in the home, to outside the home, from growing one's own produce to being a thrifty shopper.

I might add here that if a young mother with small children is choosing to work outside of the home, she should evaluate carefully if she is really making money. Considering the cost of childcare today, sometimes it would be better to stay at home and just scale back wherever you can, and in the long run, come out better or at least the same financially.

Also before the mother starts working outside of the home, the parents should make it a matter of fasting and prayer. Sometimes it would be better to live in a smaller home and have less, but be with your children. Under the influence of God's guiding Spirit, choose the right path for your family.

Time management is also important if we are to be industrious and organized. Again let me state that when we are following the in depth blueprint, the surface things fall more naturally into place. I know in my own life that when I pray and ask God to assist me, I am better able to organize my time and my daily activities.

VII. Blueprint for Strength

Pro. 31:17 "She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms."

We find the answer to the virtuous woman's strength in the Scriptures.

Psalms 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Dan. 11:32 ". . . But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do

exploits."

Phil.4:13" I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

The Holy Spirit strengthens us. Another name for the Holy Spirit is the Comforter. The meaning of the word comfort means to strengthen. We see the virtuous woman is strong because she is connected to the vine. The Holy Spirit is functioning in her life, and her foundation is built upon the fear of God. Indeed, what does she have to fear?--for the very powers of Heaven will fight for her. The Psalms tell us that our God is an ever-present help in time of trouble. He is our refuge and our high tower.

VIII. Blueprint for Sharing the Gospel

Proverbs 31:18-19 "She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff."

The virtuous woman knows that her merchandise is good. Indeed it is the best of all that is offered in this world. She has the gospel of Jesus Christ as her merchandise. She offers it to others, as a light in this dark world. She is that candle set on a hill. She does not hide her light under a bushel but lifts it high for all to see.

- A. Sec38:9c "And again I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment, that every man, both elder, priest, teacher and also member, go to with his might, with the labor of his hands, to prepare and accomplish the things, which I have commanded. And let your preaching be the warning voice, every man to his neighbor, in mildness and in meekness."

We need to be sharing the gospel with our neighbors. Every member is called to share the gospel.

Sec.4:1c-d "Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work, for, behold, the field is white already to harvest, and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perish not, but bringeth salvation to his soul" (Note that the salvation of one's own soul is involved in this sharing process.).

Sometimes as women we like to sit back and say "Oh, I don't need to share the gospel with others, that is the job of the priesthood." Indeed, according to Sec. 38:9c it is not just the job of the priesthood, but of every member.

Emma was told, in Sec.24:2-3, that she was ". . .to expound the Scriptures, and to exhort the church, according as it shall be given thee by my Spirit.....and thy time shall be given to writing, and to learning much.....thou shalt lay aside the things of this world and seek for the things of a better. . ." As members of Christ's church, we need to do all we can to share the truth of the gospel. This does not mean that we hold priesthood, but we are accountable as members to know our scriptures well enough to exhort and expound when directed by the Holy Spirit. We are to bear witness of Jesus Christ and His wonderful gift of salvation. We should be prepared to share about the Book of Mormon and the restored gospel.

When we go back over church history, there are so many outstanding women who have contributed to the missionary work of the church and the sharing of

the gospel. When Hubert and Alice Case were married, Joseph Smith the III laid his hands on both of their heads and "set them aside" for special missionary service. Alice contributed greatly to the missionary work in Tahiti. She taught women's groups, and led women's prayer groups, she arranged scripture lessons. She also helped Hubert take the gospel to the Indians. She visited the Indian women and would teach them about the gospel. The women were pleased to have her explaining the gospel to them. As members of Christ's church, we must be prepared to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and assist in the building of His Kingdom here upon this earth.

Proverbs 31:19 "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff." The spindle and the distaff in the hands of the virtuous woman are tools that produce goods. We are called to be productive members of Christ's church. Sec.58:6d-f "Verily I say, Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness; for the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good, they shall in nowise lose their reward. But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned."

Here again we see that this is part of the blueprint for eternal life. To be slothful will keep us from being a part of God's Kingdom.

Sec. 75:5b "Let every man be diligent in all things. And the idler shall not have place in the church, except he repents and mends his ways.

1. We must remember that many times it is the small things that we do that really witness for Jesus.

Sec.64:6c "but all things must come to pass in their time; wherefore be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great."

2. Later we will see that the parable of the virtuous woman has even more to say on the subject of service. It is indeed a very important subject. Christ Himself set the example when He said that He had come to serve. Mark 10:37-45

IX. Blueprint for Assisting the Poor and the Needy

Pro.31:20 "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy."

A. (In depth) The virtuous woman must be involved with assisting the poor and the needy. We go back to Matthew, the 25th chapter, again in this portion of the virtuous woman. The whole 25th chapter of Matthew is directly related to this parable of the virtuous woman. In Mat. 25:36-47, we see that no one can enter the kingdom of heaven unless he has assisted the poor and needy.

Verses 42-47 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked and ye clothed me not; sick and in prison,

and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not unto me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into eternal life."

In Alma 16:223-225, we read that even our prayers avail us nothing if we turn away from the poor and needy. We must realize how important it is to look around us and help those who have less than we do. Our eternal salvation depends on it. If we truly love God and desire to serve Him, can we stand by and see our brothers and sisters suffering and do nothing to help them? No, we cannot help all those in need, but we could surely help just one. In Mat.22:36-39 we find that the two great commandments are to Love the Lord thy God.....and thy neighbor as thyself. On these two hang all the rest of the law. The virtuous woman keeps the two great commandments.

Please make note also that in Zion there were not poor among them, Gen.7:23.

If we are to build up the cause of Zion, in this the latter days, surely we must be concerned with the poor and the needy.

(On the surface) There are so many different ways to be involved in assisting the poor and the needy. World Vision, and Samaritans Purse are both good organizations to donate to. In almost every town, there are organizations that assist the poor and the needy. Pray about it and go where you are led, get involved.