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Virtuous Woman—Blueprint for the Kingdom
Class 4

X. Blueprint for Clothing Her Household

Pro.31:21 "She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet."

- A. (In depth) The household being clothed in scarlet is symbolic of the covenant. There is a blood covenant that runs like a scarlet thread through all of the Old Testament. It was perfected, with the new covenant, when Christ died on the cross for us. Hebrews 9th chapter tells us of this covenant.

Heb 9:13-15 "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new covenant that by means of death for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

The virtuous woman makes sure her children, are clothed with scarlet. She makes sure they are clothed with the blood of Jesus Christ. She trains them up to understand the covenant and places within them the desire to become a part of it.

- B. The virtuous woman makes sure that her children are trained up in the way they should go. She starts when they are tiny babies, and the process continues until they are grown. She establishes a family altar and plans family worship. She takes every opportunity to teach her children about God and His eternal plan. If you do not know how to teach your children about God, there are many books available on the subject of family home worship, and training up our children unto the Lord. We must remember that we can teach, but we also must set an example. It is not enough to just send your children to church. You must take them. You must set an example of excellence. Teach them to pray by praying with them etc. etc.

Here again, we are accountable before God, that we follow this blueprint. We are shown in this part of the blueprint that we need to clothe our children in the covenant. If we do not do this, we will be held accountable.

1. D.C. 68:4a-c "And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance; faith in Christ the Son of the living God; and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands when eight years old, the sin be upon the head of the parents; for this shall be a law unto the inhabitants of Zion. . .their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands: and they

shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord."

2. also Ex. 35:4-29, Mosiah2:25-27, Ps.78:5-7, D.C.16:3, 90:6d, Jos.2:18-21

XI. Blueprint for Clothing Her Self

Pro. 31:22-25 "She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come."

A. The colors scarlet, purple and blue were all used in the tabernacle. Ex.39:1 tells us that they were the colors of service. Purple is also the color of royalty. This is symbolic of being a daughter of the King of Kings, and being in His service, but there is more involved. When we read in Exodus about the colors that were used in the tabernacle, we see that the tapestries and linens were brought as a free will offering to God. Surely this is the best type of offering, the best type of service the virtuous woman can give to her Lord.

Ex. 35:25&29 "And all the women that were wisehearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring. . ."

1. We note that not only is purple the color of royalty, and service, but we see that wisdom and willingness of heart is mentioned as part of the process in the act of serving God. We in this the latter day have been commanded to build up the cause of Zion, much like the Israelites were commanded to build the tabernacle. They were willing to give a free gift offering, a sacrifice, given from the heart to accomplish this task. They were excited and joyful at the opportunity to assist in the building of the tabernacle.

Ex. 35:5 "Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord; whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord. . ."

Not only did the people respond but, in fact they were so excited about being a part of this great work that they brought in abundance.

Ex. 36:6-7 "And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much."

Can you imagine in our day if we all had a willing heart, a heart to build up God's Kingdom? Can you imagine our leaders saying "Do not put any more money in the collection plate for we have too much, and we do not need any one else to sign up to be a Sunday School teacher, or women's leader, for the list is completely full, and we even have a waiting list of people who want to serve"? You say it will never happen. Well it happened in Moses' day when all the people, both men and women, had a heart and willing mind to serve God and to build a place where He would come and dwell.

We are commanded to build up Zion so we can have a city where God can come

and dwell. In Enoch's day the people walked and talked with God (Gen. 7:77). To build up the cause of Zion we need to have a heart that is willing to serve God. Ex. 35:21-22 "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle. . .And they came, both men and woman, as many as were willing-hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold. . ."

Sec.64:7ab "Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these the last days; and the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land. . ."

We can see here the importance of having a willing heart. There are many scriptures that testify to the importance of a willing heart.

Heb.3:7-19 "Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts. . ." [Look this up and read all the verses.]

Sec.56:4c-6a "Behold, thus saith the Lord unto my people, You have many things to do, and to repent of; for, behold, your sins have come up unto me. . .And your hearts are not satisfied. And ye obey not the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness. . .Woe unto you poor men, whose hearts are not broken, whose spirits are not contrite, and whose bellies are not satisfied. . .But blessed are the poor, who are pure in heart, whose hearts are broken, whose spirits are contrite, for they shall see the kingdom of God coming in power and great glory unto their deliverance; for the fatness of the earth shall be theirs;"

- B. Pro. 31:23 "Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

The virtuous woman clothed in the purple of royalty and service has a willing heart. As she goes forth in service to her husband, Christ, she glorifies Him. Her very actions make Him known to those around her.

Mat. 5:18 "Therefore, let your light so shine before this world, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

- C. I want you to also note that the women in Exodus were wise.

Ex. 35:25-26,35 "And all the women that were wisehearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple and of scarlet, and of fine linen. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. . .Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work. . .of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen. . ."

We see here that wisdom is also an important part of the Virtuous woman's clothing. Proverbs chapter 3 has a great deal to say about the value of wisdom. Verse 13 says "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding; for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her

right hand; and in her left riches and honor."

1. Through prayer we can find wisdom.

James 1:5-7 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. . ."

Sec. 38:6d ". . .treasure up wisdom in your bosoms. . ."

Sec.8:1c-2 "yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart by the Holy Ghost which shall come upon you, and which shall dwell in your heart."

Alma 12:4-5 "They were men of sound understanding, and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God. But this is not all: they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophesy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God."

The virtuous woman seeks wisdom by prayer, fasting, and study. She treasures up in her heart the wisdom she finds in the scriptures. When Jesus was tempted in the desert, He countered every temptation by saying, "It is written." He held the wisdom of the scriptures in His mind and heart.

2. We need to memorize scriptures so we carry them in our bosoms. We should teach our children to memorize scriptures. There are many creative ways to do this.

D. The fine linen is righteousness.

Rev. 19:7-9 "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bride-groom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."

E. To sum up the above verses, the virtuous woman is clothed in purple, the color of royalty and service; wisdom and a willing heart are also part of her clothing. Her actions glorify her Heavenly Father. She has prepared herself to be the bride of Christ. She is wearing the fine white linen of righteousness. Strength and honor are her clothing and she will rejoice in time to come because she will be a part of God's eternal kingdom.

XII. A Blueprint for Our Tongue

Pro.31:26 "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness."

A. Who would think that there would have to be a blueprint for our tongues, but God created us and knows a woman's tongue can be a powerful weapon and a destructive force if not used properly. So here in this blueprint He tells us that kindness is our goal. As virtuous women, kind words, spoken with love should be what comes out of our mouths. This is impossible for many women without the influence of the Holy Spirit. We need to pray and ask God to bless us and for His Spirit to fill our mouths with words of wisdom, kindness, and love.

James 3:5-6 tells us that ". . .the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. . .and the tongue is a fire. . .it defileth the whole body. . ." The whole 5th chapter of James is on the tongue. Such a little member, but it can guide the whole ship.

Eph.4:29-32 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Our blueprint for the tongue is described beautifully here in Eph. 4. The blueprint is for kind words, edifying words, only to come out of our mouths.

1 Peter 1:15 ". . .be ye holy in all manner of conversation;" Peter adds another dimension to our conversation, not only is it to be kind and edifying, but it is to be holy.

We must remember the council given in Pro.21:9 "It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house."

Pro 15:1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger."

XIII. A Blueprint for Our Total Household

Pro.31:27 "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

A. In Sec. 85 we find a beautiful description of a house built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. It is given for the church, but can certainly be applied to our individual homes. You must go read the whole thing, but I will give you an overview.

Sec. 85:36b-38 "Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God; that your incomings may be in the name of the Lord; that your outgoings may be in the name of the Lord. . .see that ye love one another. . .cease to find fault one with another; cease to sleep longer than is needful. . . above all things, clothe yourselves with the bonds of charity, as with a mantle. . .pray always, that you may not faint until I come; behold and lo, I will come quickly, and receive you unto myself. Amen"

Sec. 87:5d Set in order your houses; keep slothfulness and uncleanness far from you."

If we as virtuous women could have such households, as described in Sec. 85, then the Kingdom would not be far behind. To have such a household we must truly function under the Holy Spirit. I know I have said this over and over again in this material, but it is true. By ourselves we will not become the virtuous women of Proverbs, but with the influence of the Holy Spirit we can do it. We can have a household that is built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. We must remember what it says in the Psalms 127:1 " Except the Lord build the house, they labor in

vain that build it."

XIV. A Blueprint With a Promise

Pro.31:28-31 "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Here in the concluding verses we see that the virtuous woman has received a wonderful reward. Her children and her earthly husband call her blessed, but best of all her Heavenly Bridegroom, who is Christ, praises her with these words "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all." What wonderful words of praise. Her works, which are of such quality that they have withstood the fire of judgment and have endured, also praise her name.

Rev. 22:12-14 "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

One thing I want to clarify is that none of us are worthy to receive eternal life. None of our works make us worthy, although they stand as witness as to our belief and love of God; we are worthy only because of the blood of Jesus. Our works stand as witness or proof of our belief in God and our love for Him. They alone cannot save us. Our salvation comes only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. The virtuous woman's works do stand at the gates and praise her, as a witness of her belief, love, and commitment to her God. Our works stand as witnesses in the judgment, but the blood of Jesus saves us. On the other hand we must not forget the words of James on this subject, James 2:17-18, 23-25 "Even so faith, if it have not works is dead, being alone. Therefore wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead and cannot save you? Ye see then that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise Rahab the harlot was justified by works, when she had received the messengers and sent them out another way. For, as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead."

XV. In Closing

What a beautiful scene awaits us if we will apply ourselves and become like the virtuous woman of Proverbs. The blueprint has been laid before us. All we have to do is follow it, one day at a time. Let each of us make the commitment to start today. Let us make ourselves ready for the Bridegroom, so that we can be a part of the marriage supper.

Rev.19:7-9 "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. and he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."