

As we conclude our study of Proverbs, it is fitting that we take up the study of the wife of noble character. As I consider the attributes of this industrious woman of Proverbs, my mom and my wife come to mind. I trust you are blessed with such women in your life as well.

Isn't it wonderful to have strong, faithful women in our lives who work tirelessly and exhibit great inner strength and courage? Have you ever thought about where that strength and perseverance emanates from? It comes from a strong faith in the Lord and trusting that He will provide no matter what our circumstances are.

You can also have that same assurance and confidence that the Lord will provide and watch over you. All that you need to do is turn your life over to Christ. Submit yourself to him, acknowledge that you have been guilty of being disobedient to God and wanting to control your own life. Put Jesus first in your life by inviting him into your heart, and then let him lead and guide you through life. That is where the assurance comes from that he will provide for you, no matter what the circumstances.

Take time right now to turn your life over to Christ, you will not regret it. Once you have done this seek out a Bible-believing church where you can attend and learn more about being a follower of Jesus Christ.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com

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The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 46

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.

Topical Series: Wisdom Lived out in Community

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 31:10-31

Sermon Date: August 31, 2008

Theme: Emulate the wise woman..

This week, we take a close look at the woman of noble character. The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about women, especially about the woman of folly and warnings to stay away from her.

How fitting it is then to end our study of Proverbs by looking closely at a woman of noble character. This woman of noble character described in Proverbs 31 presents us with a picture of a woman of strong character, great wisdom, many skills and great compassion. Her strength and dignity do not come from her amazing achievements described here in the Proverb, but rather they are the result of her reverence for God.

Who are some of the women of noble character in your life? Have you noticed how these women tend to be the same ones who walk closely and reverently with the Lord? Proverbs 31 helps us see how such reverence leads to noble character, which in turn brings glory to God. As you explore this, be thinking about your own reverence, and be thankful toward those Godly women God has placed in your life as examples to emulate.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 31:10- 31 (NIV)</p> <p>⁰ A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.</p> <p>¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.</p> <p>¹² She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.</p> <p>¹³ She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.</p> <p>¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.</p> <p>¹⁵ She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.</p> <p>¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.</p> <p>¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.</p> <p>¹⁸ She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.</p> <p>¹⁹ In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>²⁰ She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.</p> <p>²¹ When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.</p> <p>²² She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.</p> <p>²³ Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.</p> <p>²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.</p> <p>²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.</p> <p>²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.</p> <p>²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.</p> <p>²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:</p> <p>²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."</p> <p>³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.</p> <p>³¹ Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins to avoid**
- ◆ **Promises to believe**
- ◆ **Examples to follow** (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands to obey**
- ◆ **Knowledge to share**

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. Based on magazines, television, and the modern culture they allegedly represent, what are the qualities that women today are encouraged to seek?
5. Based on the Bible, particularly Proverbs 31:10-31, what are some of the qualities God encourages women to seek?
6. What similarities and differences do you see between the ideals set for women by modern culture as compared to those set by God (i.e. compare your answers to questions 4 and 5 above).
7. What impact does this Proverbs 31 wife have on her husband? (See verses 11-12, 23)
8. Can you think of someone that you know today who reminds you of the woman of noble character? What is it about her that makes you associate her with the noble woman of this Proverb?
9. What response is called for by those who know such a woman? (See Proverbs 31:28-31) What does this imply about how God feels about her behavior? How could you properly praise the women you identified in question 7 for their exemplary character?
10. What is the overall point or message of Proverbs 31:10-31?
11. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.