

**Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**  
**Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 31**

**1/23/13**

**Wisdom On The Virtuous Woman**

**THEME:** Wisdom For The Leaders (Chapters 25-31)

**PURPOSE:** Solomon wanted to impart wisdom to all people, regardless of their age, sex, or position in society. These short, wise sayings give us practical wisdom for daily living. We should study them diligently and integrate them into our life.

***Proverbs 31***  
***(New International Version)***

**OUTLINE:**

**I. A GODLY MOTHER'S COUNSEL (31:1-9)**

- A. Whom she taught (31:1-2): She taught her son, King Lemuel
- B. What she taught (31:3-9)

**II. A GODLY WIFE'S CHARACTER (31:10-31)**

- A. Her worth (31:10, 25, 29)
- B. Her works (31:13-22, 24, 27)
- C. Her wisdom (31:26) : Her words of instruction are wise and kind.
- D. Her witnesses (31:11-12, 23, 28, 31)
- E. Her worship (31:30) : She fears and reverences God.

**(Verses 1-9) A GODLY MOTHER'S COUNSEL**

*The sayings of King Lemuel—an inspired utterance his mother taught him. <sup>2</sup> Listen, my son! Listen, son of my womb! Listen, my son, the answer to my prayers! <sup>3</sup> Do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings. <sup>4</sup> It is not for kings, Lemuel—it is not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, <sup>5</sup> lest they drink and forget what has been decreed, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. <sup>6</sup> Let beer be for those who are perishing, wine for those who are in anguish! <sup>7</sup> Let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. <sup>8</sup> Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. <sup>9</sup> Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

## PROVERBS 31:1

Little is known about Lemuel except that he was a king who received wise teachings from his mother. His name means “devoted to God.” Some believe that Lemuel and Agur were both from the kingdom of Massa in northern Arabia.

## PROVERBS 31:4-7

Drunkenness might be understandable among dying people in great pain, but it is inexcusable for national leaders. Alcohol clouds the mind and can lead to injustice and poor decisions. People in leadership who anesthetize themselves with alcohol will eventually compromise their principles.

### III. A GODLY WIFE'S CHARACTER (31:10-31)

F. Her worth (31:10, 25, 29)

G. Her works (31:13-22, 24, 27)

H. Her wisdom (31:26) : Her words of instruction are wise and kind.

I. Her witnesses (31:11-12, 23, 28, 31)

J. Her worship (31:30) : She fears and reverences God.

### (Verses 10-31) A GODLY WIFE'S CHARACTER

<sup>10</sup> *A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.*  
<sup>11</sup> *Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.* <sup>12</sup> *She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.* <sup>13</sup> *She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.* <sup>14</sup> *She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.* <sup>15</sup> *She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.* <sup>16</sup> *She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.* <sup>17</sup> *She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.* <sup>18</sup> *She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.* <sup>19</sup> *In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.* <sup>20</sup> *She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.* <sup>21</sup> *When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.* <sup>22</sup> *She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.* <sup>23</sup> *Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.* <sup>24</sup> *She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.* <sup>25</sup> *She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.* <sup>26</sup> *She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.* <sup>27</sup> *She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.* <sup>28</sup> *Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:* <sup>29</sup> *"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."* <sup>30</sup> *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.* <sup>31</sup> *Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

## PROVERBS 31:10-31

Proverbs has a lot to say about women. How fitting that the book ends with a picture of a woman of strong character, great wisdom, many skills, and great compassion.

Some people have the mistaken idea that the ideal woman in the Bible is retiring, servile, and entirely domestic. Not so! This woman is an excellent wife and mother. She is also a manufacturer, importer, manager, realtor, farmer, seamstress, upholsterer, and merchant. Her strength and dignity do not come from her amazing achievements, however. They are a result of her reverence for God. In our society, where physical appearance counts for so much, it may surprise us to realize that her appearance is never mentioned. Her attractiveness comes entirely from her character.

The woman described in this chapter has outstanding abilities. Her family's social position is high. In fact, she may not be one woman at all—she may be a composite portrait of ideal womanhood. Do not see her as a model to imitate in every detail; your days are not long enough to do everything she does! See her instead as an inspiration to be all you can be. We can't be just like her, but we can learn from her industry, integrity, and resourcefulness.