

## Proverbs 31 - part 2

On Monday we began on the exposition of Proverbs 31 and we covered some of the values that define a virtuous woman i.e she is

- Trustworthy
- She is a source of comfort n encouragement
- She has a strong Work ethic, makes wise use of her time and has great business sense ( collapsed in one).

Many like me are the product of hard working industrious women and this week we celebrate them

Just wanted to encourage and celebrate our industrious women. To all my beautiful sisters who rise early and sleep late working against odds I want to encourage you it is not in vain

**Prov 14 v 23** In all hard work there is a profit

Someone said the harder I work the luckier I get...and it's not just luck. God is with us in the battle fear not!

Quote: A dream doesn't become reality through magic, it takes sweat, determination and hard work!

So carrying on with the list of virtues we will now look at Strength, resilience dignity and security

### Strength v 17 & 25

It takes strength to be and do all God wants you to be/do..

And the virtuous woman girds herself with strength

Strength and dignity are her clothing..

Do you know strength is something you put on..a lot of what tires us out is between our ears...what you tell yourself

We have great stamina potentially if we can think right..It really is a mind thing which is why Paul prays that we be strengthened in the inner man. **Ephesians 3 v 16.**

Practice with the choir...

The Amplified adds to the strength issue spiritual mental & physical fitness..and yes I am an advocate of physical fitness. I know it's hard to maintain a fitness regime but I do encourage you to find one that suits your circumstances..

I discovered that there is a link between body and soul and exercise can help you battle battles of the mind and soul..

Exercise and anxiety syndrome....

**Phillipians 4 v 13** - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

### Generosity and kindness v 20

We discussed how women who walked with Jesus supported His ministry financially. I am sure that many ministries will join me in celebrating the generosity of woman and I can assure you our

church would not stand without the generous giving of its womenfolk. From time immemorial women have led the way in the grace of giving..

From the Shunamite woman **in 2 Kings 4 v 9-10** - spotting Elishas need and doing a quick home refurbishment job to meet Elishas accommodation issues

To Dorcas aka Tabitha in **Acts 9 v 39** making outfits to clothe all the saints..

To the women supporting Jesus ministry we spoke about on Monday...

We are givers that is our role and we celebrate and embrace it. May God give us more grace to give for a generous soul prospers!

Our giving prospers not just us but our families...the Shunamite husband gained a son through the wife's generosity

Dorcas' family and friends experienced her resurrection from her generosity and kindness.

### **A controlled tongue- v 26**

The virtuous woman opens her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is kindness...

Oh that all woman could emulate this quality !!! 3/4s of the problems we as Pastors deal with are from people opening their mouths unwisely speaking words that injure instead of heal...from injured spouses to injured children..

I testify freely that I struggled years of rejection and insecurity because of words carelessly spoken and I have ministered to many who likewise cannot erase from their minds poisoned unkind words spoken to them over them..from nicknames to scolding sessions injuries have been afflicted

Truly the power of life and death is in the tongue ( **Proverbs 18 v 21**)..

You ladies have immense power to influence the lives of spouses, children, nieces and nephews by your words ...be a virtuous woman and use that power to build and establish not to put down or destroy..

Someone once said if you don't want something in your house don't say it!!

Testimony - Ziadies - You can get a job anywhere in the world!

### **Fine presentation...both of herself and of her home.**

She makes covers cushions rugs for her home and her clothing of fine linen and purple..

This isn't about whether you prefer linen to satin or denim...or whether you can sew bedspreads...it's about beautiful presentation of yourself and your home..

Our Heavenly Father loves things well presented and pays attention to little things that make things beautiful. Look at the art in creation ..and the art and fine detail in His instructions for building the temple..the gold and purple.....and we as His final masterpiece have this wonderful task of adding beauty and colour to our world..

Our sense of style are varied and that's what makes the world fun but we each need to pay attention to presentation....each in her own style. I am no good with planting gardens or sewing pillows but I can do little things and just pay my home attention to make it look like my Father...

Then personal presentation ...how you look smell etc...What can I say ? It got Queen Esther to the throne and through her Israel as a nation was saved!!

Men folk when she needs time to ensure things are well presented and in order please support..its part of her calling!

Ladies when things get challenging ..small children, expanding waist lines and shrinking time remember your calling!

### **Healthy family relationships**

Her children rise as does her husband to call her blessed

Yesterday we heard testimonies about the work life balance.....The virtuous woman realises that however high we may get career or business wise we need to remember our key relationships need time and attention..

With increased responsibilities virtuous women we may need to be more creative to find ways to ensure key relationships are attended to...

It is not Gods will that we gain the world and lose our families in the process ..

Though we have dwelt on the woman's role the man is not sitting idle and we should not fear. That if we fulfill our role our men will sit idle...God is faithful and He will cause our menfolk to rise and take their positions at the city gates deliberating and deal with business and legal national issues..

Pray for women ..from those in govt to those at home - they are a formidable force!