

A Nobel, Excellent and Virtuous Wife

Proverbs 31:24-31

Part III

Scripture: Proverbs 12:4 “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones.”

Introduction:

I remember my sister Sunday coming home with a crown one day. She was voted Miss Congeniality and was going to be in the Hay Day Parade. I still remember how her face lit up when she put it on. She showed it off to all of us and she spent just a little bit of time in front of the mirror.

You know crowns represent a lot of different things. What do you think of when you think of a crown?

Position of Class ? Crown Victoria Car

Beauty? Crown on Miss USA

Natural wonder? Crown of Water

Protection? Crown on a tooth.

Anesthetic? Crown Royal

Shame? Crown of thorns

Importance Crown of a King

Transitional Statement:

Today I would like to remind us that God Himself has put crowns in this world (strong wives) for our benefit. They represent strength and honor and we should thank God on their behalf and encourage their work. And give them the honor that is due them.

Lesson:

I. A strong wife looks for ways to help her family

Proverbs 31:24

*24 She makes linen garments and sells them,
And supplies belts to the tradesmen.*

A. 2 things may be in view here.

1. First, the strong wife sees a need in her family

a. Like today, a family of any size struggles financially from time to time

b. So this strong wife applies her talents to earn some extra income.

-And help take care of the need.

2. Secondly, belts are utilitarian not cosmetic

a. So with the supply of belts she is helping meet a community need.

B. This strong wife is found to be giving at every turn.

1. Always considering the needs of her family

2. And constantly looking for ways to apply her abilities.

II. A strong wife clothes herself with dignity and strength

Proverbs 31:25a

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing...

A. In Genesis 3:7 after Adam and Eve had sinned

1. So they made themselves some clothes by sewing fig leaves together.

2. But Genesis 3:21 goes on to say that God made them garments of skin

a. Apparently they had clothed themselves improperly.

b. So there is a right clothing and a wrong clothing

B. You know clothing does several things for us.

1. First of all, it covers our nakedness

a. Definitely some right and wrong clothing in this category

2. Then it protects us from the elements...wind, rain, snow and sun

3. Then our clothes, they kind of make a statement about who we are:
 - a. If you see me sloppily dressed (shirt un-tucked, clothes all wrinkled) you might be inclined to think that I am not applying myself very much.
 - b. On the other hand, if you see me with Italian leather shoes and an Armani suit....you might think I am a little bit ostentatious
 - c. Or from time to time we see Yaw and Evelyn where cultural clothes on and that make us think of their life and culture in Ghana.
 - d. So clothes can tell us a lot about a person

C. But the clothing in view here is not literal clothing, but it is figuratively talking about the things that make up who this strong wife is as a person.

1. She has covered herself with:

a. Strength

1) To clothe yourself in strength you have to be continually:

- a) Analyzing your life approach / examining self
- b) And have a full understanding of where the line is between strength and weakness.
- c) Clothing yourself in strength is a continual battle

-It includes learning from your mistakes.

d) Trust in God

b. She also covers herself with honor

1) Honor comes from a steadfastness in choosing the right things.

- a) Being honorable isn't always fun
- b) But this strong wife gives up any of her personal desires so that right will prevail.

2) She understands that true honor comes at the hand of God.

- a) And she seeks His good pleasure with every fiber of her being.

2. Like most woman's choice of literal clothing....she takes the clothing of virtue seriously.

- a. She is careful about the hand-me downs that she accepts.
- b. Her desire is proper spiritual dress before God.

III. Also a strong wife has a positive outlook.

Proverbs 31:25b

And she smiles at the future.

- A. She doesn't move about all day in dread
 - 1. She doesn't wake up with a sigh....rolling her eyes
 - 2. Wishing to be anywhere else.
- C. She thinks of the day to come and the future
 - 1. Smiles ☺
 - 2. Why?
 - a. Because she is spiritual clothed
 - b. Ladies when you have the right spiritual clothes on
 - 1) You know that everything will always work out.
 - 2) Trust in God is to be your driving motivation,... not fear.
- D. This attitude is part of her strength and she uses it to help her family through life.

IV. A strong wife shares her knowledge

Proverbs 31:26

*26 She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

- A. First of all the text says the strong wife opens her mouth in wisdom.
 - 1. What is wisdom?
 - a. Wisdom is the ability to understand and communicate what is true and right.
 - 2. Some folks have thought that wisdom is something your born with ...or not.
 - a. But the truth is wisdom is developed.....from:
 - 1) An attitude of learning
 - 2) Listening to others
 - 3) Asking questions
 - 4) Meditating on how things fit together....application
 - 5) Looking for what is missing
 - 6) Considering areas of misunderstanding.
 - 7) From trial and error
 - 8) Asking God for help

3. James 1:5 *“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*
4. When it says that *“She opens her mouth in wisdom”*
 - a. It also simply implies that she knows when to keep quite.
 - 1) A lesson that we could all learn from time to time.
 - b. You’ve heard the proverb that says....It’s better to remain silent and be thought of as a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.
5. Proverbs 24:14 *“Know that wisdom is thus for your soul; If you find it, then there will be a future, And your hope will not be cut off.”*

B. Also the strong wife teaches kindness

1. It is important to note here that she has embraced kindness as one of her fundamental values.
 - a. She has made kindness a part of who she is.
 - 1) She wants no part of being harsh
 - 2) In her wisdom she has learned that kindness promotes godliness
 - 3) That kindness breaks down barriers
 - 4) That kindness encourage others
 - 5) And that kindness promotes healthy relationships
2. She also teaches kindness to others.
 - a. The real motivating drive for teachers it to share something meaningful that they have learned.
 - b. For instance....I have absolutely no desire to teach anyone to shingle a house...besides my back problems,....I absolutely hate it!
 - 1) But you want to come over to the wood shop and I’ll tell you everything that I know....Because I care about it.
 - c. The strong wife cares about kindness and holds it as something special in her heart.
 - 1) You know it’s usually the mother saying to the kids....be nice to each other.
 - 2) The dad’s usually just tell the kid’s to be quite...right?
3. 2 Timothy 2:24 *“The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,”*

4. Our world really needs a dose of kindness doesn't it?

V. A Strong wife watches over her household

Proverbs 31:27

*27 She looks well to the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.*

- A. "looks well" has to do with leaning forward
 1. A strong wife promotes family growth.
 2. She is constantly looking for ways to move her family to a higher plain.
- B. When I think back to my childhood
 1. My mother was always asking me what I learned at school
 2. Then she talked with me about it.
 3. Mom gave me at length instructions on how to treat my sisters.
 4. She even encouraged my spiritual growth.
- C. My mother also promoted family time....
 1. Now this meant turning off the TV or stopping play time
 2. Often it was met with great resistance
 3. But she was always persistent.....and now I am glad.
- D. In many cases the root of any family that is leaning forward is a strong godly wife.
- E. Also this strong wife does not partake of the bread of idleness.
 1. This lady is not one to stand around the coffee pot and take in all the neighborhood gossip.
 2. She has her hand to the plow so-to-speak

VI. A strong wife has the support of her family

Proverbs 31:28a

*28 Her children rise up and bless her;
Her husband also,..."*

- A. Her children and her husband bless her
 1. Time and time again she has given the work of her hands to help them

2. She has given them her counsel and instruction
3. And as most mothers and wives do, she has given her shoulder for them to lean on
4. Most importantly she has given them her love and affection.
 - a. So they rise up
 - 1) i.e. they are moved to action regarding her.
 - 2) I think of NFL football players when the camera is on them....they always say high mom !
 - 3) Maybe that is why Mothers Day is so important to us.
 - 4) I also think about husbands carried away with appreciation buying expensive things like cars and jewelry to show their appreciation....I'm not promoting this by the way !

* But they are moved to action
 - b. They bless her, "*bless*" here specifically has to do with making a path straight or level
 - 1) When I was a kid I got a skate board for my birthday or Christmas but we had no concrete or hard surfaces outside. Talk about frustrating....As I tried to use that thing, it caused me much grief.
 - 2) Part of the definition here includes the idea of joy.
 - a) A strong wife and mother has her families support
 - b) They encouraging her along
 - c) They give her help in her work
 - e) They show appreciation

* They don't take her for granted.

VII. A strong wife excels

Proverbs 31:28b-29

*"...and he praises her, saying: 29
 "Many daughters have done nobly,
 But you excel them all."*

- A. The husband praises his wife her
- B. "*praise*" means to make clear, shine, to make a show or boast.
 1. This guy lifts up his wife even in the presence of others
 2. He says of her

- a. Many daughters have done nobly.
- b. But you risen above them all.
 - 1) Like the cream rising in milk jar and floating on the milk
 - 2) This strong wife has come to the top
- C. This husband makes his wife shine.....husbands have you made your wife shine?

VIII. A strong wife fears the Lord

Proverbs 31:30

*30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.*

- A. This strong woman is not fooled by the outward beauty of this life.
 - 1. She knows that charm is shallow and will fade away quickly
 - 2. She also understands that outward beauty is an empty path.
- B. This lady here shows great strength of mind in understanding what Peter says:
 - 1. 1 Peter 3:3-4 *“Your adornment must not be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”*
- C. Reverence to God is front and center with her

IX. Let her works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31:31

*31 Give her the product of her hands,
And let her works praise her in the gates.*

- A. A strong wife has earned her place
 - 1. Here the text basically says not to withhold the fruit of her handfrom her !
 - 2. Don't just take, take, and take from her.
 - a. But take care of her
- C. To the end that when she is at the city gate.....the community will look at her with respect and honor and praise her there.
 - 1. Have we done this for our wives?

Conclusion: Proverbs 12:4 “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband...”