

## Preparation for Godly Marriage Part 4

We continue in this message to speak about the preparation for Godly marriage and we will continue our discussion in point V. **God gave responsibility to the woman:**

**Proverbs 31:10-31** speaks in details about the wife who fears God and describes her responsibilities inside the house while her husband is working outside managing the aspects of life that his family is in need in pertain to the world and God's church.

*“10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. 13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. 14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. 15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. 19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. 22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. 24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. 25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. 27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. 30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” (Proverbs 31:10-31 KJV)*

The above scripture speaks about the wife of a noble character and the key phrase is that *“She looketh well to the ways of her household,” (Proverbs 31:27 KJV)* Pondering further on **Proverbs 31:10-31** will help us to see what more for a woman to watch and do over the affairs of her household, and what more for a woman prepared for marriage needs to prepare herself to do:

a. *“10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.” (Proverbs 31:10 KJV):* Good and faithful deeds are more valuable than money. The woman with good skills in the housework and who is good at handling resources are a source of income to the family. Penny saved is a penny earned, and a woman who knows how to control and reduce spending is a big aid to her husband. The work of the wife in the house is indispensable and it will save much money from being spent. Many women work outside the house to help their husbands with the income, but no one is aware that the wife's place is in her husband's house, and in her management to her house she can earn more for her family than what she earns outside the house.

The place of the wife is in her husband house for another three valuable reasons:

- *First*, the wife who works outside the house to earn living might be tempted to boast over her husband and she might not submit to him.
- *Second*, the wife who is working outside the house will not be able to care for the children and look after them. When both parents are working outside the house then the children are lost because no one will be there to watch over them, to monitor them and discipline them when they do wrong, to train them, and to raise them in the fear of the Lord.
- *Third*, the wife who is working outside the house will not be able to care for and satisfy her husband, and that will cause troubles and disharmony in the family.

When the wife is working outside the house, the newly born children will be deprived of taking their mother milk, beside that, the parents will shoulder the cost of artificial milk, and the cost they need to be spent to baby sitter and nanny. As well as when both parents are working outside the house, the children might be harassed, maltreated, or abused by the nannies, the babysitters, and other caregivers. There are many stories where children had been adversely affected under the hands of those who are giving the care. Children also should not be under the care of the grandparents; *first*, because that is not the responsibility of the grandparents, and *second*, the grandparents will usually spoil the grandchildren and will cause the children to be out of control of their parents.

Women when leaving their houses, corruption will be starting in the family. Everything will be disturbed; cooking will be hindered and the family may start to depend on food bought from restaurants higher in price than food cooked in the house and is not as clean and healthy as food cooked at home. Women can do marvelous things inside the house for their families; all kinds of cooking, food conserving, confectionery and bakery work, preparing juices, vinegar, jams, and sauces can be prepared from cheap and healthy resources and the children can enjoy healthy food when wives stay home. All such kinds of food when it is bought from the market can cause much cost and will affect the financial budget inside the family. Restaurants, bakeries, confectioners, cafeterias, coffee shops started to appear on the surface of the earth when women left their homes.

\* Women who are at home will have time to plant and cultivate some or all of their vegetables and fruits, which is another way for the family to save some of their finances. \* Women who are at home will have more time to stitch, prepare, fix, and ironing clothes. When women left homes and worked outside their houses, tailors and laundries started to do the work those women left to do for their families. \* Sure all these services that the wife will not do because she is involved in work outside the house will cost the family more money to be spent to secure all these services.

Wives who are working outside the house, the children will be forced to be enrolled in private and public schools, that will affect the children because they will be under the influence of people who might be ungodly, also the children will be corrupted by the effect of other children, for we are aware that foolishness is residing in the heart of the children, *“15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” (Proverbs 22:15 KJV)* So, when our children are mixed with other children in the school, they acquire foolishness from them, and they will learn bad things that ultimately will bring troubles inside their lives and our families. In addition, to the above benefits of holiness

for homeschooling to our children, the cost will be less and that will be added to the amount of saving the family can do.

The cost of all these services that we explained above might be in total exceeds what the salary the wife would bring from income. Also, when the system inside the family is disturbed in such a way that contradicts the Scriptures then God's blessings and approval on the family life will be affected. Now in many families, husband and wife are working, but their income still is not enough to cover the financial needs. Simply God will not bless disobedience. Women working outside the house are not the pattern that we can see in the Scriptures, and even our children what they will learn if both parents are working outside the house? When they are growing up they will do the same and the same troubles and harassment will be again inside their families and in the families of their children. That will be a bad example and incorrect message that we are giving to the world and to our new disciples, and the Lord will not bless us for that.

**b. "11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil." (Proverbs 31:11 KJV):** The wife who is faithful and does her responsibility well, her husband has confidence in her. The wife who is a watch woman over the affairs of her house, and that do her responsibilities well, her husband has full trust on her, and his mind will be free when he leaves the house, knowing that his faithful wife is there to care for everything. A woman preparing for marriage needs to be a mature and responsible person because ahead of her is the management of the affairs of her house.

**c. "12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." (Proverbs 31:12 KJV):** The Godly wife does not harm her husband and she is careful not to bring troubles to her house all the days of her life. The wife, a disciple of Jesus is a light to her house to bring the truth to her family and salt to preserve and implement the instruction of God's Word in the life of her children, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16 KJV)

**d. "13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands." (Proverbs 31:13 KJV):** The virtuous wife is diligent and eager to work with her hands. She is skillful in selecting materials to make suitable clothes for her family. She is self-dependent and knows how to do her responsibilities well.

**e. "14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar." (Proverbs 31:14 KJV):** The noble wife thinks about how to bring God's provision from a far distance with a cut cost. A virtuous wife knows how to use resources, even from far places, to make her service cost-effective and fruitful. Many things, you can bring cheaper from far places than to take it from nearby places to you. That will need some time to come. The wise wife is patient and she will wait to receive an inexpensive product. She will not pressurize her husband to buy her immediately expensive product, but she will delight to wait to receive the same with a cheaper price after a time.

**f. "15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens." (Proverbs 31:15 KJV):** The noble wife wakes up early to cook and to arrange the things inside the house, helping her husband who is working outside the home atmosphere. We can notice in the above verse that the wife here has girls, but she is not

depending on her girls to wake up early and cook for her; instead, she wakes up and prepares the food for her family and her girls.

**g. "16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard." (Proverbs 31:16 KJV):** The virtuous wife knows how to farm and cultivate plants to provide for her house. She knows how to earn and save money and use it in starting other fruitful things for her family. She perseveres to secure land and space of land with water to use to plant and make a vineyard to provide fresh vegetables and fruit for her family. Cultivation and farming are teamwork the family needs to be involved in. It is good for exercise. It is good to recycle resources. Instead of throwing water, it can use the used water inside the house (from cleaning dishes, washing the clothes, and taking baths) to water the plants and save money. It is another saving of money when vegetables and fruits are reproduced at home.

**h. "17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms." (Proverbs 31:17 KJV):** Vigorous and hard work emphasized here the physical strength of the virtuous woman to do the work in the house, as well as that emphasis her faith and trust in God that He will give her the strength needed. Strong faith enables her to work hard to build up her family and she can say, *"13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* (Philippians 4:13 KJV)

**i. "18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night." (Proverbs 31:18 KJV):** The noble wife can clearly see what are the fruit and the good things of her labor. She knows how to evaluate herself and can see the progress of her work. She is ready and alert day and night, *"her candle goeth not out by night."* (Proverbs 31:18 KJV) Usually, day time is working time. The night is for rest and sleeping time unless there is an urgent work or an emergency. The virtuous wife who is chosen by God for her husband works hard during the day, and she rests in the night. But in case of urgent need or emergency, she is available to cope with such circumstances.

**j. "19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff." (Proverbs 31:19 KJV):** Both hands are used for the glory of God. She knows how to use the spindle and distaff to prepare wool and cotton threads to be used to yarn clothes for herself and her husband and children. A virtuous wife knows how to stitch clothes and prepare them in proper sizes to cloth her family.

**k. "20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." (Proverbs 31:20 KJV):** The wife should be ready to help the poor and needy. Helping the poor and needy will relieve those from troubles, and such deeds will return with blessings to the whole family.

**l. "21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet." (Proverbs 31:21 KJV):** The noble wife is a good steward; ahead of time she prepares her house and family to face winter and the scarcity season. She is a good planner and anticipates things before it is happening.

**m. "22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple." (Proverbs 31:22 KJV):** The virtuous wife is a wise person who knows how to make and keep good and high-quality things in her house, *"3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by*

*understanding it is established: 4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.” (Proverbs 24:3-4 KJV)* Tapestry work is expensive and costs much. The wife who has skills in that will adorn her house with such beautiful things and without a cost. A virtuous wife will keep in her house valuable things but with less cost.

*n. “23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.” (Proverbs 31:23 KJV):* The noble wife brings respect to her husband. She will give him peace in the house and his mind is clear and at peace when he is outside the house, knowing that his wife will take care properly of everything in his absence.

*o. “24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.” (Proverbs 31:24 KJV):* The noble wife has skills that use them to make good and profitable things. She can make pocket money for her from her handwork.

*p. “25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.” (Proverbs 31:25 KJV):* The virtuous wife has confidence and strength as long as she is obedient to God and His Word. Finally, she will be clothed with strength and honor for the task she is doing. God will prove and crown the works of the virtuous woman with success and she will rejoice over the good things that she is establishing.

*q. “26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” (Proverbs 31:26 KJV):* The virtuous wife has wisdom and knows how to speak, and give careful instructions to the people around her to manage the affairs of her house and how to do the good works that God prepared in advance for her to do.

*r. “27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.” (Proverbs 31:27 KJV):* She is ever observing all that is going on in her house. She is the faithful watchman over every member of her family; having the discernment to differentiate between good and bad, and can see that what her husband had instructed her from God’s Word is applied in her household. She is not lazy, but diligent, active, performing the activities needed from her with speed.

*s. “28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” (Proverbs 31:28 KJV):* God would bless the children of the noble wife and they will see how their mother had great value in their lives in raising them up in the fear of the Lord. They will value their mother and praise her for the good things that she did for them. Her husband will see also the good things that she is building and achieving inside the house and will praise her.

*t. “29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.” (Proverbs 31:29 KJV):* Purposeful things are noble things. The virtuous wife will do what God is expecting her to do. She will do the very thing that God had appointed for her to do: *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” (John 15:16 KJV)* The virtuous wife chosen by God and is a fruit bearer and God would answer her prayers for her obedience to His Word and will.

*u. “30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” (Proverbs 31:30 KJV):* Woman’s body beauty is of secondary importance; her

good deeds and fruit are essential. Her fear of the Lord is the main drive for her to do noble and good things and this is her reason for success, and she will be given the praises for that.

*v. “31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” (Proverbs 31:31 KJV):* The husband of the noble wife is glad; he encourages and praises his faithful and hard-working wife. The noble wife hard works and achievements will be rewarded by God, her husband, and by her children.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** Let us come now to God, obeying His Word and submitting ourselves to His will, applying all what we learned today in our lives and following the template that the Word of God gives us. Let us pray ...

***My Prayer:*** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching and all the corrections and the admonishments that I received from your Word.

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of the fear of God, your laziness, your worldliness doing your own will and following your own plan. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, wasting resources, and your mismanagement for finances. Confess and renounce being a wife and a mother but not willing to stay home and care for your house and family. Confess and renounce your disobedience to God and your non willingness to get involved in the good works that God that prepared for you to do. Confess and renounce your non willingness to discipline your children and homeschool them. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to fear you and to live my life according to the teaching of your Word and your will we study in this message. Lord I will follow you doing the good works that you prepared for me to do. Lord give me good health to continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to obey you and start to serve you. Lord reward them and prosper their families and children. Lord make them good testimonies that others may see you in their lives and start to follow you.

Lord, bless us as your church, and sustain us to continue to council people and advise them according to your Word. Lord lead us to new people who need such follow up and care. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and lead us to evangelize, making new disciples and training new workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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