

Women's Study | Proverbs 31:27-31
May 4, 2020

Verse 27

Proverbs 31:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ *She watches over the ways of her household; And does not eat the bread of idleness.*

Proverbs 31:27 (AMP)

²⁷ *She looks well to how things go in her household, and the bread of idleness (gossip, discontent, and self-pity) she will not eat.*

This is our divine assignment.

Running a household is a responsibility that God gives to all His women, whether you are married or single. This verse describes the task with the image of a watchman or watch woman.

She watches over the ways of her household.

She watches over means: to lean forward, to peer into the distance; to observe. await.

We are to literally “watch over” our families and our household affairs.

She diligently, purposely, intentionally, watches over all the ways of her home!

Your home is the place most worthy of your diligent watching. In fact, your home is the most important place in the world for you to be spending your time and investing your energy.

Why? Because the work you do in your home is important work! Significant work! Eternal work!
This is contrary to what the world thinks!

The work you do in your home is your supreme service to God. And we should enjoy the beauty of serving in our home. If you don't, make it your prayer.

Our home should be a safe haven in which our family can come home and feel safe and be themselves.

Being a watch keeper suggests that we stand guard, keeping our eyes on everything. This is how we fulfill our divine assignment as an overseer of the precious possessions that the Lord has entrusted into our care – our husband and our family and our property.

We must have our fingers on the pulse of our household. We must maintain a watchful eye, knowing what is going on under our roof. This is how we care for our family as well as our homes.

Proverbs 27:23 (NKJV)

²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds;

We must guard what has been entrusted into our care. We must be on top of things...

What are your children watching on TV? What type of video games are they playing? Who are they talking with online? [The computer that our children used was always in view / I had all their passwords / online addresses, etc.] What are they posting on Facebook and Instagram?

Are TV shows that they are watching of wholesome value? I encourage you to watch the TV shows that your children are viewing.

Do you have a safe internet? Where vulgar pop ups are not allowed to pop up!

What kind of music are they listening to?

Who are they hanging around with? Are they non-Christians?

Are they eating healthy meals or does their diet consist of junk food?

Your children are the Lord's; remember that He has entrusted them to your care for a short time, but they are His.

You have been entrusted to care for these things. Along with taking an active authority role, we can be watchful in prayer as we intercede for our family to see how the Lord will answer us on how we will be corrected. Like.....

Habakkuk 2:1 (NKJV)

¹ I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.

Are you standing your watch? Are you seeking the heart of God for any changes that He may want you to make in your life?

The second part of verse 27 reads that she does not eat the bread of idleness.

How can we keep our homes well-managed? How can we maintain a watchful eye? By not eating the bread of idleness.

The "bread of idleness" here literally means "eyes looking everywhere" as in the lazy man of whom the same root word is used.

Idle means “lean idle” having no value, use or significance.

Let us not waste time or engage in shallow, unproductive activities, like:

- The internet –who are you talking to on the internet
- The TV – daytime TV is all trash
- Friends – can be time drainers, stopping by or on the phone
- Shopping – with money you should not be spending

Do not eat the bread of idleness.....there is much to say about keeping busy in your home!

There is so much to put in order and to organize. There are floors to be washed and drawers and closets to purge. Purge your homes! Downsize and simplify your homes. When you are busy doing constructive things, you do not have time to do destructive things, like gossip or feeling sorry for yourself.

During this shelter at home time, I would like to encourage you to make the most of the time by seeking the heart of God, drawing close to Him and developing a deeper love for Him.

Remember, this proverb 31 woman is always available to minister to her household and to her family. She is not too busy doing the work of the ministry or working outside the home that she neglects her home and her family. She does not eat the bread of idleness and because of it, she is attentive to her family and her household!

No doubt her home can best be described as:

Proverbs 24:3-4 (NKJV)

³ *Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;*

⁴ *By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.*

Proverbs 24:3-4 (AMP)

³ *Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation],*

⁴ *And by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

Verse 28

Proverbs 31:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ *Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:*

Proverbs 31:28 (AMP)

²⁸ *Her children rise up and call her blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied); and her husband boasts of and praises her, [saying],*

As moms and wives, we should be more concerned with the quality of our lives and our love for our children and husbands, than we are about receiving praise. Praise and glory to God, not self, should be the heartbeat of everything we do.....

But the fact of the matter is..... when you devote your life to your Jesus and your family and your home. When you are doing *all things as unto the Lord, for His loves' sake*, those around you will speak words of praise about you.

When you are lovingly and consistently disciplining them, (training them up in the ways of the Lord) they will see your love for them and for the Lord!

Remember you are to be their mother first, one who trains them to be obedient, kind, well mannered, well groomed, respectful, etc. You were not called to be their cool friend, rather a wise and godly mom. Someone to look up to for wise and godly advice!

Even when you think that they are not noticing your love for the Lord – they are!

Edith Schaeffer the author of, “The Hidden Art of Homemaking” says and I quote,

“Being a mother is worth fighting for, worth calling a career, worth the dignity of hard work.”

We see for the first time in this chapter, a glimpse at this woman’s children:

Notice that:

It doesn’t tell us if they are living a life surrendered to God, the God, in whom their mom loves.

It doesn’t say how many children she had or whether they were sons or daughters.

It doesn’t say how old they are, yet we understand that they are old enough to understand that they had a servant mom, a mom who is rare and precious, a mom different from all the rest!

This is comforting to me because I would be beside myself if this portion of scripture said that she had 20 children [used no birth control methods], they all were surrendered to Jesus [because she home schooled them and she did everything right]

It says that because of her selfless, holy, surrendered life they called her blessed. They blessed and praised her!

May I just encourage you that, your children will not forget from where they have come, they will appreciate you and they do see your love for Jesus. Don’t give up, don’t be discouraged, and don’t be hurt. You keep on keeping on for Jesus! You keep giving them scriptures and

praying for them and continue to keep guard over them. You continue to draw close to Jesus and His Word. And one day they will rise up and appreciate Jesus within you!

Jill Briscoe said, and I quote,

“You keep what is precious to God and He will keep what is precious to you!”

You see, she received praise and blessing of appreciation from those who matter most, her children, the ones who have received a lifetime of the first fruits of her love, day in and day out.

And here we see that her husband also praises her; and your husband will also praise you!

When you are the mother that God has called you to be, your husband will appreciate you!

Proverbs 31:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ *"Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."*

Proverbs 31:29 (AMP)

²⁹ *many daughters have done virtuously, nobly, and well [with the strength of character that is steadfast in goodness], but you excel them all.*

This statement proves that this proverbs 31 woman must have been a loving, submissive and respectful wife toward her husband.

In verse 28 toward the end of the verse it states that her husband praises her too! In verse 29, he says with a grand finale of praise, adding his voice of recognition and appreciation for all that she does for him. Her numerous self-less works rise to a crowning chorus. “You excel them all!” Her husband uses the same word here for “excellent” that is used in verse 10 “Who can find an excellent or virtuous woman?”

What has she done to deserve this?

Those of you here, who are married to unbelievers, please know that he will come to a point in his life that he will appreciate your godliness and your holiness! You will hear this crowning chorus!

Singles; don't settle for less than Gods' best concerning a husband. Be sure that he is genuinely passionate for Jesus and The Word of God before plunging into a lifelong commitment of marriage with him!

What does this woman do to deserve this crowning chorus of praise?

- *She was a woman of God.* She loves her Jesus with a passion and humbly serves in all ways as unto Him! She is a woman who fears the Lord...we will get to that shortly!

- *She was a serious homemaker.* She attentively watched over her home. She continually sought to make her home a safe haven and a place of peace. No doubt her home was in order, beautiful and clean.
- *She was a wise mother.* In obedience to God and for His glory she raised her children to love and serve the Lord. In turn this gives her husband peace of mind and strengthens his reputation for having mindful children.
- *She was a loving wife.* We see that the heart of her husband safely trusts in her and may I add in every way!!

You see many walk with Jesus but when your priorities are kept in line with God's call for your life you will excel!!!

Questions to think on and ask yourself:

Does your behavior bring honor to your husbands' name and reputation?

Can your husbands' heart safely trust you? In what you say, how you act and in your loyalty to him? With the finances? To care for the children?

Do your words encourage him and build him up for the demands on his life?

Has your husband found a virtuous woman in you? A woman who loves God and His Word?

Does he find you on your knees in prayer? Oh, are you interceding for him?

Verse 30

Proverbs 31:30 (NKJV)

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

Proverbs 31:30 (AMP)

³⁰ *Charm and grace are deceptive, and beauty is vain [because it is not lasting], but a woman who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord, she shall be praised!*

Charm is deceitful or misleading. You see, charm and beauty can mislead us to think that they are the weightier thing in life, but they are not!

Beauty is not lasting. It is vain because it is only temporary, it fades away! The outer man does not always reflect the inner man. I know woman of outward beauty whose hearts were terribly mean and hateful; vulgarity spilled out of their mouths.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NKJV)

⁷ *But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature,*

because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Vanities of vanities, all is vanity the outward appearance should not be the principle thing!

Rather, a woman who reverently and worshipfully fears the Lord, she shall be praised!

When you put all your energies and focus on the temporal and on the things that fade away and you will *have lived a wasted life.*

Only the spiritual has eternal value. Forever and ever!

True holiness and virtue command permanent respect and affection, far more than the charm and beauty of face and form.

God values the state of your heart!!

And this is we need to concentrate on developing the fear of the Lord in our lives.

The book of Ecclesiastes contains the futile emptiness of trying to be happy apart from God and we see that nothing can fill that God shaped void in our life but God Himself! No Make-over, no day at the spa, no new hair color, no weight loss, no husband, no friend..... *just God Himself fills that void!*

And the book of Ecclesiastes ends with:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.*

¹⁴ *For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*

The fear of the Lord is not being afraid of God, rather it is acquiring a respect and reverence for God that produces a holy life! The Fear of the Lord is simply acquired as you draw near to the heart of God.

Verses on the Fear of the Lord:

Proverbs 19:23 (NKJV)

²³ *The fear of the Lord leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.*

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 15:33 (NKJV)

³³ The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

Job 28:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.' "

Psalms 111:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

Psalm 19:9 (AMP)

⁹ The [reverent] fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Proverbs 8:13 (NKJV)

¹³ The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

And once again:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

You see holiness is our greatest need. We will only be as wise as we are holy!

How do we gain this wisdom that produces this holiness, this fear of the Lord?

Steps in developing the fear of the Lord:

1. Be open and honest before God.

Psalms 51:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

2. Keep check on your pride. The fear of the Lord hates evil, pride and arrogance and evil ways.

Isaiah 66:2 (AMP)

² For all these things My hand has made, and so all these things have come into being [by and for Me], says the Lord. But this is the man to whom I will look *and* have regard: he who is humble and of a broken *or* wounded spirit, and who trembles at My word *and* reveres My commands.

3. Live a surrendered life unto Jesus. I mean in every way, do not leave anything unturned that has not been given to Him! May Jesus rule in your heart and life and may all you do be an act of worship done unto Him!

In all our circumstances, decisions and judgements we need to act in the fear of the Lord.

In 2 Chronicles 19. Jehoshaphat was setting up judges in the land and this was the advice that He gave them. 2 Chronicles 19:7 and 9

2 Chronicles 19:7-10 (NKJV)

⁷ Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do *it*, for *there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes.*" ⁸ Moreover in Jerusalem, for the judgment of the LORD and for controversies, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the chief fathers of Israel, when they returned to Jerusalem. ⁹ And he commanded them, saying, "Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart:

4. Schedule a daily appointment with the Lord and do not break it! We must have time in God's presence in prayer and in the Word of God. This is what nurtures our inner beauty, it keeps our hearts cleansed and therefore develops the fear of the Lord.

We gain God's wisdom and begin to know Him; as we soak in His mind and heart through the Word of God! That is how we begin to love what He loves and to hate what He hates!

Nowhere can we get to know the holiness of God and come under its influence and power, except in the inner chamber. It has been well said: "No man can expect to make progress in holiness who is not often and long alone with God."

Andrew Murray

5. We must obey God. We must embrace God's will for us as women. Each of us are called by God to either be wives, mothers, grandmothers, aunties, mentors, friends and to shape our family, children or friends for the Lord! We must be obedient to the Word of God! We must live obedient lives! We must accept and embrace God's directive for our lives!

What does the Lord require of us?

Micah 6:8 (AMP)

⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love kindness *and* mercy, and to humble yourself *and* walk humbly with your God?

Verse 31

Proverbs 31:31 (NKJV)

³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31:31 (AMP)

³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates [of the city]!

In this verse she is openly acknowledged by God and her family.

Proverbs 27:2 says,

² Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

As proverbs 31 comes to a close [and the book of Proverbs itself, God's book of wisdom] we see the fruit that is born over a lifetime of loving and serving others, the fruit born out of a heart that loves and follows, hard, after God.

Psalms 63:8 (AMP)

⁸ My whole being follows hard after You and clings closely to You; Your right hand upholds me.

We hear the voice of praise for this woman preserved through the centuries; we hear:

- The voice of her children sounding out praise
- The voice of her husband issuing forth praise
- The voice of God – through His Word – praising her even to this day!
- Then, we hear the voice of her works praising her

But there is one voice yet to be heard and that is yours and mine. The rich beauty of the proverbs 31 woman is not appreciated by our culture. Satan and the world around us, labels her beauty and her virtue as, undesirable! *Oh, how wrong they are!!!*

You see, this Proverbs 31 woman lives out, *all* that is beautiful in God's eyes.

We must speak of God's will for us as women, we must tell it to our friends, our daughters, our sons [which is why we have this beautiful example in scripture, in the first place], and our grandchildren.

And when you find your vision dimming, when you sense your priorities shifting, when you fail to be the woman of God that you want to be; may this example of a Godly woman inspire, instruct, and encourage you.

The book of Proverbs begins with the command to Fear the Lord in Chapter 1:7 and ends with the picture of a woman who fulfills this command.

Psalms 128:2-3 (NKJV)

² When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

³ Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table.

We hold in our hands the most precious and valued possessions:

Our husbands

Our children

Our next generation of missionaries, pastors and prayer intercessors

Our families

Our homes

Our churches

Our Bible

Our prayers

Our Praise unto God

And so, with hands lifted up to the heavens, may the works of your hands cry out praise to your Jesus, in whom we live to give all the glory!