

A Woman Who Fears The LORD . . .

(A Study on Proverbs 31)



Willingly Works with Her Hands

INTRODUCTION

A virtuous¹ woman willingly works with her hands. How many women do you know who have truly committed themselves to meeting the physical as well as the spiritual needs of their own families and others? Jesus, the Son of Man² is the greatest example of one who offered His loving hands to be a servant. As a child He skillfully handled the Scriptures. When He was a young man He lovingly served His parents as a carpenter. As the Servant of all He fed the multitudes, tenderly held and blessed the children, and humbly washed the feet of His disciples. Ultimately, He let His enemies pierce His caring hands and nail them to the cross of Calvary³ that all mankind might receive forgiveness for their sins. Jesus said to His disciples . . . *I AM among you as One who serves* (Luke 22:27).

THEME SCRIPTURE

She seeks wool and flax, and willingly⁴ works with her hands (Proverbs 31:13).

MEMORY VERSE

She watches over⁵ the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness⁶ (Proverbs 31:27).

¹ virtuous: woman of valor; worth, excellence, noble character, and strength.

² Son of Man: one of Christ's earthly names; the son of Mary.

³ Calvary: mount of the skull where Jesus was crucified.

⁴ willingly: with pleasure; desire, acceptance, delight, will, pleasantness, and purpose.

⁵ watches over: to lean forward, to peer into the distance; to observe, await, behold, look up[well], wait for, keep the watch.

⁶ idleness: to be slothful, laziness; indolent.

I. THE GODLY HOMEMAKER

READ the following verses from Proverbs 31 and WRITE the ways in which the virtuous woman serves her family and others.

v. 13 _____

v. 14 _____

v. 15 _____

v. 16 _____

v. 18 _____

v. 19 _____

v. 20 _____

v. 21 _____

v. 22 _____

v. 24 _____

v. 27 _____

After reading these verses, what job descriptions would you give her? _____

What are older women to teach younger women (Titus 2:3-5)? _____

Why (v. 5b)? _____

II. WILLING WORKERS

How did the following women do service in their homes and to those around them? LIST their names and what they did.

Genesis 18:6 _____

Genesis 29:9 _____

Exodus 2:16 _____

Exodus 35:25, 26 _____

Ruth 2:2, 3a _____

⁷ discreet: self-controlled, sensible, sound mind, temperate, moderate as to opinion or passion.

⁸ chaste: pure.

Mark 1:29-31 _____

Luke 8:1-3 _____

Luke 21:1-4 _____

Luke 23:55, 56, 24:1 _____

I Timothy 5:9, 10 _____

PERSONAL

Which woman from these Scriptures was an example to you of serving the LORD? Why?

CHALLENGE

READ Acts 9:36-43.

Who was Dorcas? How did she serve the LORD? Name the people in the story and what they did for her. How was God glorified?

III. IDLENESS

What do the following Scriptures teach on idleness, the lazy⁹ person and the diligent¹⁰ one.

Proverbs 13:4 _____

Proverbs 15:19 _____

Proverbs 19:15 _____

Proverbs 20:4 _____

Ecclesiastes 10:18 _____

PERSONAL

Is there an area in your life where you are idle? What will you do to change? _____

IV. SHE DID WHAT SHE COULD

1. READ Mark 14:3-9.

Where was Jesus (v. 3)? _____

What was the woman carrying with her? _____

⁹ lazy: indolent, idle, slothful, sluggard.

¹⁰ diligent: determination, eager, to be alert and decide.

What did she do with her costly gift? _____

Why was she criticized sharply (vv. 4, 5)? _____

What did Jesus say in her defense (vv. 6, 7)? _____

What did Jesus reveal that she had done (v. 8)? _____

How did He bless her (v. 9)? _____

NOTE

The woman's passion for Christ led her to bring her costly gift, break it, and pour it on her Savior. The aroma of the oil filled the house and the fragrance of her sacrifice followed Jesus to the cross.

2. READ John 12:26.

What did Jesus say about those who serve Him? _____

PERSONAL

How will you start serving those whom God has put into your life today? _____

CHALLENGE

READ Luke 10:38-42.

Women can get overwhelmed with too much serving. Martha and Mary served the LORD, what was each woman's service (vv. 38, 39)?

What was wrong with Martha's service and her attitude toward Jesus (v. 40)? _____

What did Jesus say about each of them (vv. 41, 42)? _____

What *one thing* was Jesus referring to? _____

*Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

Proverbs 31:31

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