

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Favorite Proverbs Bible Study - Part 2

Proverbs 31:8-24 Lesson #16

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Proverbs before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word. Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

8-9 Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, **JUDGE righteously, and PLEAD the CAUSE of the POOR and NEEDY.**

• **Isaiah 1:17** “Learn to do good; seek _____, reprove the oppressor; _____ the fatherless, _____ for the _____.”

• **Psalm 82:3-4** “Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked.”

• **James 1:27** “_____ and undefiled _____ before _____ and the Father is this: to visit _____ and _____ in their _____, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Definition: “JUDGE righteously, and PLEAD the CAUSE of the POOR and NEEDY” – In Solomon’s day, and in Old Testament times, widows, orphans, poor people and the “afflicted” were often without a voice (“speechless”), or in other words, they did not have any power to help themselves or get justice from others in their society. **Today, we might say some of these people “fall through the cracks” and their needs are not met by government agencies, etc.** As Christians, we need to support homes for women rescued from sex-trafficking, orphanages, homes for pregnant, single women (rather than giving them no other option than abortion), visiting the elderly and home-bound seniors, and anyone else in need.

• **I Timothy 6:17-19** “Command those who are _____ in this present world not to be haughty (proud), not to _____ in uncertain _____ but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do _____, that they be rich in good works, ready to _____, willing to _____, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

• **Psalm 41:1-2** “_____ is he who considers the _____; the Lord will _____ him in time of _____. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be _____ on the earth; You will _____ deliver him to the will of his _____.”

• **Matthew 25:34-40** “Then the King (Jesus) will say to those on his right hand, ‘Come, you _____ of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was _____ and you gave Me _____; I was thirsty and you gave Me _____; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was _____ and you _____ me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You _____ and _____ You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or _____ and _____ You? Or when did we see You _____, or in _____, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My _____, you did it to Me.’”

• **Luke 3:11** “He answered and said to them, ‘He who has _____ tunics (jackets, shirts), let him _____ to him who has _____; and he who has _____, let him do likewise.’”

Definition: "If a BROTHER or SISTER is NAKED and destitute of daily FOOD" – (See James 2:15-17 below) "Destitute of daily food" means not having enough to eat. "Brother or sister" means our brothers and sisters in Christ - other Christians. Jesus said in Matthew 25:34-40 that **if we feed and clothe our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are doing it to Jesus Himself.**

• **John 3:17** "But whoever has this world's goods (food, clothing, etc.), and sees his _____ in _____, and shuts up his _____ from him, _____ does the _____ of God abide in him?"

10-12 **Who can find a VIRTUOUS woman? For her WORTH is far ABOVE RUBIES.** The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

• **Ruth 3:11** "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for _____ the _____ of my town _____ that _____ are a _____ woman."

• **Job 28:18** "No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, for the _____ of _____ is _____."

Definition: "Who can find a VIRTUOUS woman? For her WORTH is far ABOVE RUBIES" – The Hebrew word for "virtuous" means "all forms of excellency," or in other words, ALL the character traits of a good and honest person, and for us as Christians, it would include **ALL of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

• **Titus 2:4-5** "That they admonish the young _____ to _____ their husbands, to love their _____, to be _____, _____ (modest), _____, good, _____ to their own _____, that the _____ of God may not be blasphemed (spoken against with contempt)."

• **Proverbs 18:22** "He who finds a _____ finds a _____ thing, and obtains _____ from the Lord."

• **Proverbs 12:4** "An _____ wife is the _____ of her _____, but she who causes _____ is like _____ in the bones."

• **II Peter 1:5-8** "But also for this very reason giving all diligence, _____ to your _____ (moral excellence); and to _____ knowledge; and to knowledge self-control; and to self-control perseverance (patience); and to perseverance _____; and to godliness brotherly _____; and to brotherly kindness _____. For if these are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

• **Galatians 5:22-23** "But the _____ of the _____ is _____, _____, _____, longsuffering (patience), _____, _____, faithfulness, _____, _____. Against such there is no law."

13-16 **She SEEKS wool and flax, and willingly WORKS with her HANDS.** She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants. **She CONSIDERS a FIELD and BUYS it;** from her profits she plants a vineyard.

• **Ephesians 4:28** "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him _____ with his _____ what is _____, that he may have something to _____ him who is in _____."

Definition: “She SEEKS wool and flax, and willingly WORKS with her HANDS” – Unless you are a farmer’s wife, most of these activities of the “virtuous woman” are outdated and don’t seem to apply to us, but just substitute the activities of a modern-day woman, and you can see that **she should be INDUSTRIOUS, hard-working, and CLEVER in finding ways to feed and clothe her family**, and to make some money on the side to contribute to their needs.

Definition: “She CONSIDERS a FIELD and BUYS it” – This is referring to her ability to make wise business choices, whether working full-time out of the home, or being a full-time housewife.

17-19 **She girds herself with STRENGTH, and strengthens her arms.** She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.

• **I Kings 18:46** “Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah, and he _____ up his _____ and _____ ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.”

Definition: “She girds herself with STRENGTH, and strengthens her arms” – **“She girds herself with STRENGTH” in the Hebrew literally means “girds up her loins”** (as Elijah did when God gave him supernatural strength). “To strengthen her arm” is just another way to say she keeps herself healthy. Her lamp not going out by night means she stays up late working on her projects in order to keep her family safe, warm and fed. For the working mother of today, it might mean working overtime, or just having strength to do her household chores when she gets home from work.

20 **She extends her HAND to the POOR**, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

• **Deuteronomy 15:11** “For the _____ will _____ cease (stop) from the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall _____ your _____ wide to your brother, to your _____ and your _____, in your land.’”

• **James 2:15-17** “If a brother or sister is _____ and _____ of daily _____, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not _____ them the _____ which are _____ for the _____, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

21-22 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for **ALL her HOUSEHOLD is CLOTHED with SCARLET. She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.**

• **I Timothy 2:9** “In like manner also, that the _____ themselves in _____, with propriety and moderation, _____ with braided hair or gold or pearls or _____, but, which is proper for _____ professing _____, with _____.”

• **I Peter 3:3-4** “Do not let your _____ be that outward _____ of arranging the _____, of wearing _____, or of putting on _____; but let it be the hidden person of the _____, with the incorruptible _____ of a _____ and quiet _____, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

Definition: “ALL her HOUSEHOLD is CLOTHED with SCARLET” – Only wealthy people could afford clothing in SCARLET (bright red). Here, the “virtuous woman” is so industrious, wise and clever in her business ventures, that she can afford to clothe her family in the best and warmest

clothing.

Definition: “OUTWARD ADORNING of arranging the HAIR, of wearing GOLD, or of putting on FINE APPAREL” – At first, it may seem that these verses are a contradiction to what is said in Proverbs, but **it is really only a matter of PRIORITY. There is nothing wrong with wearing nice clothes, but that should NOT be our primary focus in life.** Some Christians, because of their church tradition and legalism, say women should not wear any make-up or jewelry, and they base their teachings on I Peter 3:3-4 and I Timothy 2:8-9. In I Peter 3:3-4, we have **a contrast** between the woman who dresses up and adorns herself on the outside only, and the woman who is sweet and godly on the inside. **This “gentle and quiet spirit” is actually the character qualities of Jesus Christ, also known as the Fruit of the Spirit,** and these are the things that are important to God. The hypocrisy in some Christian churches comes where you see denominations who don’t allow the women to wear make-up or jewelry, but they wear elaborate hair-dos. Or, you have women who will not wear any jewelry, not even a wedding ring, because it’s gold, and yet they will gossip and be full of envy, malice and bitterness. **In other words, the wearing or not wearing of jewelry and make-up does NOT make a woman HOLY and Christ-like.** I Peter 3:4 says, “Let it be the hidden person of the heart”, but **legalism focuses on the outward appearance,** what can be seen. The Pharisees wanted to be “seen by men” when they prayed, fasted or gave to the poor, but Jesus blasted them for being hypocrites, cruel, selfish, and full of pride. The **scriptural principle** being taught in I Peter 3:3-4 is that **women should focus on their inner character, as opposed to outer “window dressing”.** It is not meant to be a command to never wear jewelry, or else women could never wear clothes either, because it says “of putting on apparel”. The word “fine” is in *Italics* in your Bible, so that means it was added to help the reader understand the passage, and the original just says putting on apparel (clothing). The main principle God wants to get across in I Timothy 2:8-9 is that women should dress modestly, and that all adornment (jewelry, hair styles, clothes) should be in moderation. **It is wrong for a Christian, man or woman, to spend too much time and money on fancy clothes, jewelry, and so forth - that is being self-centered and self-absorbed.**

23 **Her husband is KNOWN in the GATES, when he sits among the elders** of the land.

• **Job 29:7-8** “When I went out to the _____ by the _____, when I took my _____ in the open _____, the young men saw me and hid, and the aged _____ and _____.”

Definition: “Her husband is KNOWN in the GATES, when he sits among the ELDERS” – Most cities in Old Testament times had a wall around them, and the older, wise men sat at the city gate to judge and give advice to others. **This was a position of great RESPECT.**

24 **She makes linen GARMENTS and sells them,** and supplies sashes for the merchants.

• **Acts 9:36 & 39** “At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This _____ was _____ of _____ and charitable deeds which she did.” (Verse 39) “Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room . And _____ the _____ stood by him, weeping, showing the _____ and _____ which Dorcas had _____ while she was with them.”

Definition: “She makes linen GARMENTS and sells them” – the “virtuous woman” not only makes clothing for her own family, but makes enough to sell to merchants in order to make extra money for her family. We know from other verses in Proverbs 31 that **she also GIVES to the POOR,** so this extra money may be used for that purpose.