**Godly Wisdom for Right Living From a Mother**

**Proverbs 31:1, 10-31; Job 28:28; James 1:5**

**May 14, 2023**

**DAILY DEVOTION**

Find a rhythm in God’s word this week! Follow this 7 day plan on your own or with your group!

https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/21260-the-virtuous-woman

**INSPIRATION**

“Say you don’t need no diamond ring

And I’ll be satisfied

Tell me that you want the kind of things

That money just can’t buy

I don't care too much for money

Money can’t buy me love”

(Lennon-McCartney)

**ICE BREAKER**

1. Most, if not all, of us are familiar with the popular Beatles’ song “Can’t Buy Me Love.” What do you think the song celebrates? Is the Fab Four elevating the value of a relationship over the value of diamonds, or do they just not want to buy expensive jewelry?
2. In Proverbs 31:10, God’s inspired word, what relationship is valued over rubies? What do you value more than diamonds and rubies?

**DEEP DIVE**

**Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

“Marks of Noble Character:

* Hard Worker (v. 14)
* Strategic (vs. 15)
* Strong (v. 17)
* Profitable (v. 18)
* Compassionate (v. 20)
* Wise and Kind (v. 26)
* Fears the Lord (v. 30).”

**Read Proverbs 31:1, 10-31 and then answer the following questions:**

1. The book of Proverbs, most of which was written by King Solomon, focuses on acquiring and living with wisdom. Scholars differ on whether the last chapter, Proverbs 31, was written by a King called Lemuel, or by Solomon (because the name Lemuel may signify one devoted to God). Based on Proverbs 31:1, who taught the author of Proverbs 31 the valuable lessons that he presented in this chapter?
2. Based on Proverbs 31:10-31, explain how the mom in these verses reflects each of the valuable characteristics listed in the message excerpt above.
3. How did the work and sacrifices of this mom affect her family? As reflected in Proverbs 31:31, explain the effect her private deeds had on her public reputation.
4. Explain in your own words the meaning of Proverbs 31:25: “She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.”

**Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

“These aren’t just marks of a noble wife, they are marks of a noble life! These are marks for every single one of us! This is wisdom that not only affects us and our house, but it speaks to the world.”

**Read Job 28:28 and James 1:5 and then answer the following questions:**

1. Proverbs 31 is not just a celebration of a wise and loving mom; it presents lessons for us about living with wisdom. Do you think a person living today with the same noble characteristics and wisdom as this mom would produce the same effect on others, the same sense of peace and the same public reputation? Explain.
2. Based on Job 28:28 and James 1:5, explain where wisdom comes from.

**Additional Study**

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

* Job 28
* Psalm 111:10
* Proverbs 2:6
* Proverbs 4:6
* Proverbs 8:11

**NEXT STEPS**

1. An important part of acquiring wisdom is spending time with God, including time in prayer and time in the Bible. If you do not yet have this time, what changes do you need to make in your schedule to prioritize your private time with God?
2. Write down five ways in which you can be more valuable in your relationships with your family, neighbors, or co-workers than diamonds and rubies.

**PRAYER**

1. Lord, thank you for my mom. Thank you for blessing me with a loving and sacrificial mother, and an awesome example I can carry on with my family and friends.
2. If you did not have a close or loving relationship with your mom, pray that God will help you identify positive characteristics you learned from her that you can apply in your family and your culture.

**SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

* BENSON - Serve with us at ABIDE every 2nd Saturday.
* MILLARD - Serve with us at Heartland Hope every 4th Saturday.
* FREMONT - Serve with us at LifeHouse every 3rd Saturday.
* OMAHA - Serve with us at Open Door Mission every 4th Saturday.
* Or get to know your community, are there any needs/volunteer opportunities?