

J.J.

**THE IDEAL WIFE AND MOTHER**  
**Proverbs 31**

**INTRODUCTION :**

By the way, every year on Mother's Day you will always hear a sermon about Proverbs 31. It is meant by the Lord to show us the ideal and there's nothing wrong with that. Life is all about ideals.

SOAP EXAMPLE If you are looking for soap for bathing, what are the ideal characteristics will you be looking for? First, it must wash away dirt, then you might add it must be gentle on the skin and you might add, it must make you smell nice. What if you ask someone who doesn't know what soap is to buy you soap and you just say, make sure it washes away dirt? And then they come back with laundry soap?

Proverbs 31 is about a mother advising her son regarding on what to look for in a wife.

*Proverbs 31: <sup>10</sup> A wife of noble character who can find?*

*She is worth far more than rubies.*

*<sup>11</sup> Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.*

*<sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.*

*<sup>13</sup> She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.*

*<sup>14</sup> She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.*

*<sup>15</sup> She gets up while it is still night;  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her female servants.*

*<sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.*

*<sup>17</sup> She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.*

*<sup>18</sup> She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.*

*<sup>19</sup> In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.*

*<sup>20</sup> She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.*

*<sup>21</sup> When it snows, she has no fear for her household;  
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.*

*<sup>22</sup> She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.*

<sup>23</sup> *Her husband is respected at the city gate,  
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.*

<sup>24</sup> *She makes linen garments and sells them,  
and supplies the merchants with sashes.*

<sup>25</sup> *She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.*

<sup>26</sup> *She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

<sup>27</sup> *She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

<sup>28</sup> *Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:*

<sup>29</sup> *"Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all."*

<sup>30</sup> *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

<sup>31</sup> *Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

*Pray*

#### **\*Background of Proverbs 31:10-31**

**Apparently, these part are the things on what Solomon's mother taught him.**

**\*King Lemuel** – "for God" or "devoted to God", many interpreters say that this is King Solomon too – it may be a term of endearment.

**\* <sup>1</sup> *The sayings of King Lemuel—an oracle his mother taught him:***

And one of her mother's advise is to make sure on how to find the a good wife.

**\*<sup>2</sup> *"O my son, O son of my womb,  
O son of my vows,***

**<sup>3</sup> *do not spend your strength on women,  
your vigor on those who ruin kings.***

*Proverbs 31:2-3 (NIV)*

The mother of King Lemuel is more interested **in the character of a woman.**

**So what kind of character that the mom advises her child in finding a woman?**

**<sup>10</sup> *A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies. (NIV)***

**<sup>10</sup> *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. (KJV)***

**Etymology :** virtuous "chayil" – strength, force, army

**Application :** The picture here is of a "strong", "virtuous" "noble (NIV)" woman (a wife and a mother)

*...for her price is far above rubies.*

**Note :** In ancient cultures, rubies are called “king of the gems”. Rubies are considered the rarest and most precious gemstone in the world.

*\*Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.*

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF AN IDEAL WIFE AND MOTHER**

### **\*I. SHE CAN BE COUNTED BY HER HUSBAND**

*<sup>\*11</sup> Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.*

*<sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.*

#### **Her husband fully trusts her**

*<sup>11</sup> Her husband has full confidence in her ... (NIV)*

**\*Quote :** Fundamentally, trust is one of the keys - if not the key foundation - any relationship will be built on.

**Even** our relationship with God starts from "trust"

#### **Why the husband trusts her**

*and lacks nothing of value.*

**Etymology :** two words in Hebrew “chacer” not lacking “shalal” bounty, gain, plunder (things that they worked for – relationship and their possessions)

**Based on the context, there are two reasons why the husband trusts her.**

- **She remains faithful and loyal to him.**

*<sup>2</sup> "O my son, O son of my womb,  
O son of my vows,*

*<sup>3</sup> do not spend your strength on women,  
your vigor on those who ruin kings.*

- **She takes care of what they have.**

**ILLUSTRATION :** I love how we were sharing in the Bible study, when Nanay Luning shared on how she makes sure that whatever her husband brings her home, “pagyayamanin” niya ito.

**That’s why, the Bible says :**

*<sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.*

**The opposite side of it is squandering whatever they have.**

#### **ILLUSTRATION OF TWO KINDS OF WOMAN**

**THE PHILANDERING WIFE :** My friend had a girlfriend in high school. We would visit their house and we know that the girlfriend's dad is in Saudi. But every time we are there, there's a PLDT lineman inside the house. We already had our suspicion until we later learned that the wife was fooling around.

**THE GAMBLING MOM :** I remember one of my officemates in the Philippines telling me the story that her dad had a very lucrative profession but she remembers her mom always in the casino. The mom became addicted to gambling until their dad lost his business and now the mom had so many gambling debts that they were forced to sell their house and their car and they had no savings at all.

#### **\*II. CARES FOR HER HOME**

- **She finds pleasure in being a wife and a mother.**

*<sup>13</sup> She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.*

**Etymology :** Hebrew for eager, willing (chephets) "delight"

**NO NEED FOR LAW FOR MOMS:** In a town, the council was passing a law that the mother should take care of the children. One woman spoke up and said, "I don't need a law to take care of my children. I take care of them whether there is a law for it or not."

- **She makes sure there is food in her home.**

*<sup>14</sup> She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.*

**OFWs and SIDELINES:** This is specially true with Filipino women who will go to great lengths just to provide food for the family because the income of the husband is not enough. Some women will go abroad so they can earn more and send to their family in the Philippines.

Or what my Nanay used to do before was to make her own longganisa, tosinog and hamon and she will sell it.

*<sup>15</sup> She gets up while it is still dark;\_  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her servant girls.*

**Illustration :** In our household, during weekdays, the first one who is always up is my wife who prepares all of our "baons". After preparing all of our "baons", that's the time she prays. So she doesn't only bless us physically, she also blesses us spiritually.

- **She handles the finances of her home well**

**By the way**, when you became husband and wife the Bible says that you became one entity. In short, there is nothing as his money and her money. It's both your money whether you're on separate bank accounts or not.

Right from the start, when me and my wife got married, we started having a joint account but that's up to you. But the principle is this, in a husband and wife relationship, there is no such thing as his money and her money. It's both your money.

*\*<sup>16</sup> She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.*

**In short**, she just doesn't use the money for shopping always ☺ but she finds ways to invest their money

**NANAY TONING AND THE APARTMENT** : I remember the stories of Nanay Toning where she tells me that whatever her husband earns, she makes sure she saves a part of it (inside the refrigerator) and because of it she was able to buy an apartment where it's being rented out.

*<sup>17</sup> She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.*

**WORKING WOMEN OR WITH SIDELINE** : I'm always amazed with women who would be working or doing business and at the same time they still have the strength and the time to make sure their household is run well.

*\*<sup>18</sup> She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.  
<sup>19</sup> In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers*

**Look at the word picture :**

It means she's watching for it personally. *She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.* She is in control of the finances. <sup>19</sup> *In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers*

**IN SHORT, SHE KNOWS THEIR FINANCES**, how much is going in and how much is going out. She's **IN CONTROL** of the budgeting OF THEIR FINANCES.

**\*What's the result if finances are handled well?**

**They can afford to help other people**

*<sup>20</sup> She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.*

**BE A BLESSING AND TITHING :** The reason why we watch our finances, why we work hard, **why we do business is not only because of ourselves. We do this in order to be a blessing to others.** Part of the budgeting in our family must include our giving to church and to the needy. With my wife, by God's grace, when He provides the income, she immediately separates the 10%. We did that when we got married. She even gets insulted when I ask her, "Make sure you separate the 10% for the Lord." and then she will give me that "LOOK".

**They are prepared for the difficult times.**

*<sup>21</sup> When it snows, she has no fear for her household;  
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.*

**"Clothed in scarlet"** The term 'Scarlet' refers to a type of very fine and high quality wool cloth which as such preserves warmth, and when colored, also appears dignified and rich. The cloth was given a scarlet color by dipping it twice in a lotion made from the eggs of the coccus ilicis – a small insect found on the leaves of the oaks in Spain, and in countries east of the Mediterranean. **This particular type of cloth was rare and probably pretty expensive as well!**

The virtuous woman has no fear for the coming winters because her family was covered in fine, expensive clothing suitable for winter. **Her household was well stocked for times of need.**

**Note :** I have heard of this sect that doesn't believe in buying insurance because it shows a lack of trust in God. But that's not wise.

**Remember,** there's a difference between faith and fatalistic. We will see that in the next verse.

**Old Indian Proverb :** Trust in God but lock your door.

**Again, why can they do this?** it's because the woman takes care of their finances well.

### **\*III. SHE IS CONFIDENT ABOUT HERSELF**

- **It shows on how she carries herself.**

*<sup>22</sup> She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple. (NIV)*

*She makes her own clothing,  
and dresses in colorful linens and silks. (The Message)*

**CONDUCTING YOURSELF IN PUBLIC.** How you conduct yourself, how you carry yourself in public shows how you look at yourself. **It glorifies God if you dress properly and smartly rather than sloppily.** Remember, we are children of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

**Note :** I don't know what happened to the days of our grandparents when they would dress up well even if they're just going to the park.

**\*Result if a woman has confidence and carries herself well**

*<sup>23</sup> Her husband is respected at the city gate,  
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.*

**Sample :** We hear others or yourself sometimes saying, “Ano ba yung napangasawa ni ... parang walang...” or Look at the First Ladies of the head of states or Princess Kate, the wife of Prince William.

- **It shows on how on how she deals with other people.**

*<sup>24</sup> She makes linen garments and sells them,  
and supplies the merchants with sashes (NIV)*

*She designs gowns and sells them,  
brings the sweaters she knits to the dress shops. (MSG)*

**Do you know in order to sell something, you need confidence?** Remember, everything in life is all about selling. You go into an interview, you are selling your skills. You are speaking in front of a crowd, you are selling your opinions and your thoughts.

**Note :** A strong mother isn't idle, she uses the gifts, talents or blessings that are given her and uses it to bless her family. Wala silang hiya-hiya.

**SELLING CASSAVA :** I remember one church member in the Philippines, they are not well-off, they live in a shanty. But she will be cooking cassava cake or any kind of dessert and she will just be going house to house to sell it until it's gone. Now her daughter has finished nursing.

**Here in our church I love how the women here will be selling** Avon, insurance, siopao, atsara and etc and of course, Janet will be shouting.

**My wife will always tell my children “Ang nahihiya nagugutom”**

**That's why the Bible tells us in**

*2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

- **It shows in her inner attitude.**

*<sup>25</sup> She is clothed with strength and dignity;*

**Notice earlier, it's an outer clothing, now it's an inner clothing.**

Remember, who you are on the outside sometimes reflects what you are carrying on the inside. But sometimes, it doesn't match.

What do I mean, what we look from the outside doesn't really reflect who we are on the inside.

**Example :** You may look with the nice cloth and make-up but inside you are really insecure.

That's why the Bible says, "clean the inside of the cup" first. **In short, make sure you are confident on the inside first.** How? Remember that you are God's child. God loves you and He wants the best for you and He will take care of you.

- **It shows in how she speaks**

*<sup>\*26</sup> She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

- **It shows in how she works.**

*<sup>27</sup> She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

## **CONCLUSION :**

**WHAT IS THE SECRET OF A STRONG NOBLE WIFE AND MOTHER?**

**It's her character!!!!**

This is the result when a woman is trusted by her husband, takes care of the home and is confident about herself. :

- **She is praised by her family.**

*<sup>28</sup> Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:*

*<sup>29</sup> "Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all."*

**TRUE PRAISE :** This is the true praise, if people that are close to you praise you.

*<sup>\*30</sup> Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;*

Coming from a male perspective, we get attracted by the beauty and the charm (that's the reason why this proverb) but when we eventually see that she doesn't have the right character, that's the time we get turned off.

**So what is important in order to have that right character that is worthy to be praise?**



*but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

This is the reason it is just correct to honor the strong woman of the Lord.

- **She deserves to be praised publicly.**

*<sup>31</sup> Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

**PRAY FOR THE MOTHERS AT HOME**

**S.G.D.**