



Proverbs Daily Dose of Wisdom Devotional



Chapter 31 By Jennifer Smith

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The first few verses of this chapter are often overlooked. It begins with a puzzle that Lemuel's mother taught him – a form of teaching children so that they think things through and remember - much like a nursery rhyme!

This mother wanted her son to be a good king, to rule well and be fair. From the experience of King Solomon, she taught Lemuel that many people will try to tempt important people. Don't waste your time with that kind of people, she says. Beware that alcohol can cause lots of trouble! It often makes you do stupid things and forget what you are supposed to do. We can learn by watching others and might escape trouble for ourselves.

Finally, she reminded Lemuel to care about others, especially the poor. She wanted him to protect and defend those who need help.

She must have been a good mother, teaching her children to be wise. The rest of this chapter describes a woman who is a good mother and wife. This is a poem about a perfect wife. The letters of each line begins with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, in sequence – an easy way to remember the poem!

When this passage was written, men were the most important visible people. God wanted everyone to know that He viewed women as valuable and precious. He says you have to search hard to find a good wife. Solomon writes of a woman, not a man, called Wisdom.

This woman was respected by everyone – people even respected her husband because of her! We can all learn to better ourselves by being more like her.

This woman is trustworthy. She brings good things to her husband and household. She doesn't waste time or money. She's pleasant – not causing arguments or trouble. She is happy to keep busy. And she IS busy! She provides clothing for every season for all in the household. Everyone in the house is cared for, having good food, even if she must search for it. The produce – fruits and vegetables – is available because she has planned ahead. All this isn't for wealth, but because she cares for not only her

family, but the poor, too. This woman of Proverbs is not proud – “see what I have done?” but is humble, generous and happy that her family is provided for with enough to share. Hard times will come and she’s prepared. She’s a good person to all who encounter her, at home and in public.

Her husband talks a little about her... he knows his wife is very special. He wants no other. He loves and appreciates her. He tells her so. Even though she has beauty and grace, those qualities may fade. But she will still be a great person and a great wife. She has wisdom because she respects God first. Men and women both can learn a great deal from this woman. If we learn to behave the way this woman does, we can also be wise, trusted, loved and honored. Doing ALL she does is a daunting goal... just take it one step at a time!

We hope God opens revelation to you in this chapter, Proverbs 31. Remember to value the mom and/or wife in your life!

What verse stood out to me _____

What is God’s wisdom to me _____

What can I do today to go forward with God’s wisdom in my life _____

Jennifer Smith has known Christ her whole life, but was introduced to Christ as Messiah in the late 1980s. She & Dallas, her husband of 28 years, were blessed to visit Israel in 1999 and have been involved in Hebrew Roots ever since. They lead a Torah Study on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at One Church. Jennifer loves to cook and caters in her spare time, specializing in a 1st Century Passover, where she cooks and teaches. Jennifer is looking forward to retirement from the U.S. Postal Service so she can spend more time with her 2 children and 3 grandchildren.