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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - The Wife Who Fears the Lord

APRIL 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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A good woman is priceless! Nonetheless, Salary.com recently tried to appraise the financial value of a stay-at-home mom. Based on the market value of the skills she needs and uses daily, their analysis estimated that her annual salary should be \$184,820.

But, according to Proverbs 31, her character is even more valuable than outward factors. We need to understand that the “wife of noble character”—literally, “a woman of valor” (v. 10)—

A woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30

ideal, not an individual person. The climax of the description is found in today’s verse: “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (v. 30). This brings the Book of Proverbs full circle from the first chapter (1:7).

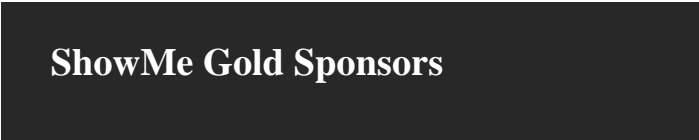
What virtues and actions are associated with her fear of the Lord? She works hard (vv. 13–15, 17, 19, 27), plans wisely (and so “can laugh at the days to come” because she’s not anxious, v. 25), and has good business sense (vv. 16, 18, 24). She’s strong (v. 17), dignified (v. 25), and wise (v. 26). She’s generous toward the poor (v. 20; Prov. 14:31). She takes good care of her family (vv. 15, 21–22, 27), including teaching her children and guiding them toward maturity (v. 26). She supports her husband and he in turn has full confidence in her (vv. 11–12). He’s respected in the community, in part because of her (v. 23). She, too, is respected in the community and praised by her family (vv. 28, 31).

Such a woman’s outward actions flow from her inward virtues, and these in turn flow from her

overall orientation of fearing the Lord. The “wife of noble character,” then, is an ideal we can all learn from!

Go Deeper

How might we, men and women, become people of noble character? Our culture pushes us toward outward displays of success, but the fear of the Lord help us resist this?



Pray with Us: Lord, if we are honest, the Proverbs 31 woman seems unrealistic and often intimidating. But, like her, we follow the same God who guides and gives gifts. Help us, men and women, to become people “of noble character” (Prov. 31:10).

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