

The most famous Titus 2 woman in the Bible  
The mother of king Lemuel

As I began to take seriously the mandate to teach younger women while also being mindful of the fallenness of my flesh and its desire to talk about whatever fancies my heart, I turned my attention to the ladies who have blessed me the most. I've mentioned them in a podcast before, I'll link it in the comments section, but then it dawned on me that there was a woman who was the very first Titus 2 woman I went to for help. She actually made me cry the first time I went to her when I realized how much more serious she was about proper womanhood and marriage and motherhood than I could have ever even dreamed about. She was smart, she had so much talent or at least I assumed she did because she was telling me what I should be working on at home for myself. So I will introduce her here to you but I know you have already known her for a long time yourself. Because she is the same woman you looked to for guidance. The mother of King Lemuel who wrote Proverbs 31. She was a Titus 2 older woman.

She has been the Titus 2 mentor to millions of women throughout the centuries. She sets forth a standard of an excellent wife, one full of virtue and beloved by her family. We have poured over her teaching, counting them good and right and worthy of emulating. She speaks soundly, not burdening women with silly, trite pursuits but she shows the multifaceted approach a wise woman takes when running her household and in the care and keeping of her family as well as herself.

As a reminder, let's look at who she must be to qualify as a Titus 2 older woman. It says The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Does anything in her words betray her as rowdy and wild or does she seem to be in behavior as becometh holiness? She's reverent in speaking about the woman she's describing, using flattering speech and edifying words to encourage good work among wives. She takes a solemn approach to break down key areas the wife should and will focus on, not neglecting the specific care she takes of herself. All of her teaching is for the betterment of others which is a holy characteristic that is personified in our Messiah, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and who stated that God hath anointed him to preach the gospel to the poor; sent Him to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised and To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Proverbs 31 old woman isn't a false accuser because her words are edifying and uplifting not fault-finding and blame placing. Usually we talk down women who aren't behaving properly but she focused completely on the pattern the wife should follow in doing good. She makes no assumptions, true or false, about the woman's motives so we only see her as a model of excellency we find attractive. Too often we speak like satan, pointing the finger at all the wrong

we see in another woman, speaking harshly about her to our family or to associates instead of jumping in to help encourage her to good works. Maybe it's because we don't know how to really have and show compassion or we aren't willing to get involved, maybe out of fear of rejection. But either way, to have all the wisdom of what's proper and right and not share it with love and kindness but instead poke fun at makes us behave more like satan the slanderer and less like Christ.

Now of course we cannot infer from this section if the woman is a teetotaler but we do see she isn't behaving like someone who loves to sip wine. She told us the virtuous wife buys land and plants a vineyard, which could be used to make the wine her family will consume so clearly she approves of such an endeavor. But as we look at her description of the excellent wife, she shows great capacity for detail, listing every facet of life the wife will be concerned with. I've seen people under the influence of alcohol and I can assure you that they are in no way detailed and circumspect let alone coherent and able to express wisdom rightly. So I have to assume she is moderate in her consumption of wine not using it for the purpose of being a drunkard especially since back in verse 4-6, she counseled her son on the importance of sobriety as king let he forget what is decreed and so pervert the rights of the afflicted. She goes on to say that wine is for the one whose life is bitter and for drowning out the sting of poverty. I found it interesting that She doesn't paint at all a picture of the excellent wife's life looking bitter to her but instead she says she smiles at the future and because she has so much, she is able to stretch out her hands to the needy. Too often in our society, marriage and motherhood and housekeeping are described as drudgery and bitter and demeaning to womanhood but the proverbs 31 woman is the complete opposite of that assessment. I feel more inclined to trust her rather than society's viewpoint and I am sure you agree as well.

The mother also teaches good things.

She is giving instructions as she steps out the lifestyle and habits of the homemaker. She advises on the practicality of rising early and working late into the evening. She talks about how to love her husband by doing him good and being a woman he can entrust his heart with which could mean she is obedient and he trusts her because she listens to him and is subject to him. She teaches how the wife is skilled in clothing her family and has excellent taste in material and fashion inferring she is chaste in dress. She also encourages her to look well to her own dressing by wearing exquisite fabrics.

She praises the woman who willingly works with her hands, who seeks far to source the best food she can acquire for the health and vitality of her family.

She shows how with her talent, she is able to make a product to sell to, most likely, other ladies to make into garments for their own family as well as to supply the traveling merchant to sell in the markets since she is home based in order to tend to the needs of her household. And many more things she teaches as good pursuits for the wife in order that she is busy at home with profitable service. She shows us what a wife ought to focus on and that it is right and acceptable to be pleased with our gain and efforts. It's not wrong for us to feel a sense of pride that our gain is good.

She even shows us the ultimate earthly reward for our efforts. Her precious children, when they have grown, will bless her for how she has poured her life into the care and keeping of themselves and her husband will heap admiration upon her as the rare jewel he has found. And I don't know about you, but 19 years in and I am still trying to impress my husband with my skills and my devotion to our family and his words of praise mean the absolute world to me. I want him to think well of me and have pride in the wife of his youth especially since so many of our years together are years I count as loss because of my own fallenness. So when he says in a casual random manner at some random time like at the gas pump, babe you're the absolute best woman i've ever known, I eat it up...i just love to hear the praise. Granted, my fantasy self wished he spoke those words over a romantic candlelit dinner but hey, i'll take it. Probably would have had to cook that romantic dinner myself anyway...LOL

Older women can learn a lot about what to teach and encourage in younger wives. Proverbs 31 is instructive not only to the woman who needs to learn but it shows the one who is to teach how to present the instruction. So this time when I read Proverbs 31, I am not here to learn as I see evidence of most of this in my own life is different capacities, which I will expound upon in a following video but I am here reading as an older woman to see how to best present information to younger wives. The mother is still my teacher and I hope to serve my sisters well. I am blessed to speak with you here on youtube.

I will say that maybe a key difference is that she doesn't necessarily emphasize the extreme importance it is to know the Lord. This is what makes the proverbs 31 teaching incomplete, not wrong just missing a key component found in the Titus 2 woman. The titus 2 older woman has her eyes upon God, as 1 Peter 3 instructed her to lest she cause the word to be blasphemed by those who hate Christ. Her reason, her why is for the integrity and honor of the word of God and she's not just being good and doing good for her own honor or the sake of the family but she does it because it honors the sanctity of the word of God and it is evidence of her own salvation in that she is obedient to the word.

What about you? How has the mother of King Lemuel encouraged you to good works as a woman of God? Let me know ...