

...And today Let's talk about proverbs 31

title ?? How about a vow of poverty for the proverbs 31 woman
Proverbs 31 or a life of poverty

When I first came home full time and read proverbs 31, I felt an immediate dread. Because first of all, she had so much work to do and I was complaining about my ultra modern life and how hard it was. I don't mean to bash our comfortable American lifestyle, believe me I am most grateful to have all that I have but back then, before we started living this semi off grid lifestyle, I was such a useless woman. I mean, yeah laundry was taken care of, meals were prepared but my heart was calloused and I was an angry woman who resented womanhood. and then here she comes, this perfect hard working virtuous woman who absolutely put me to open shame. After crying about it for a while and leaving to read Titus 2, I figured I'll just do some stuff I thought women at home did. At the time, I didn't have a youtube account to see women doing stuff at home and I had no homemaker in my family to learn from, so I decided that I'd learn to make some cookies from scratch because that's what women at home do, right?

Anyway I kept going back to look at the proverbs 31 woman and reading blogs about proverbs 31 but I kept hitting the same problem. All of the help was about building some kind of business to work on like she did. but I didn't have any skills, I was tired of working so much, I couldn't keep up with my current housekeeping and I just felt completely overwhelmed. I decided to look into all of the businesses marketed to stay at home moms, everything from selling insurance and makeup to Avon and weight-loss drinks...ALL of it coupled with offers for returning to work for my mother or at least spending most of my now free time hanging out over there. look at all of this busy work trying to get me out of my home or drown me in

other pursuits within the home. After a very turbulent couple of months with no lasting income generating scheme, I realized I had learned to rise early and work into the evening and even sew some curtains and that triggered proverbs 31 in my mind. so I went back to read it again to see if I measured up now. I did. I saw some evidence in my life of progress in my homemaking. well then we moved off the grid and built our little house and I had to become a much harder worker. I began to identify even more with the proverbs 31 woman because I had to do a lot more with my own hands. now I wasn't studying this chapter or anything, I was reading through the whole Bible ever year and checking in with proverbs 31 whenever I got there but I was mainly studying Titus 2 for help in my life and marriage, which was astonishing because I was seeing the fruit of proverbs 31 coming to bear in my life.

But most importantly, for one thing, the ever consuming pursuit to earn income had to cease for me. I took great encouragement from Mrs White's blog, Legacy of Home, where she talked about taking a vow of poverty to pledge her "wealth", "health" and "reputation" for the ministry of her own family and for those that have need. I will link her blog in the comments section.
<https://thelegacyofhome.blogspot.com/search?q=poverty>

This resonated with me a lot. Since I was unable to successfully build my proverbs 31 business, I pushed my husband to earn more and always look for a better job. I was making him miserable doing this but that was because I was greedy for gain and hadn't really learned yet that my value wasn't dependent upon my earning ability. so after praying on this and listening to my mentor Mrs white, I decided that I too would take a vow of poverty. meaning, that even if we became poor because I decided to be a full time homemaker like God instructed in the book of Titus, I would still rely on the Lord and whatever my husband earned would be enough for me.

Here's what's interesting though. we aren't poor and we've never been poor, not really. In fact , my husband's income has literally doubled since I've been home. We have a middle class income but I was being seduced by the culture around me coupled with my own desire to be rich or at least well off that I believed we were in poverty. but once I took my vow of poverty, I felt free to become content and to not live my whole life trying to start a profitable business.

This is the whole point of me sharing this story.

This shift from greed & slavery to wanting to earn money to sweet contentment freed me to be able to stretch out my hands to the needy and to be ready to share all we have with a compassionate heart. This is what was also missing in my life. I felt like the stingiest person on the planet and I needed to fix my heart. I stopped relying on what the world says was wealth and honor and instead, cultivated useful habits and skills for the express purpose of being a blessing to others who were truly in need. I found that I was extremely wealthy in time so I began to volunteer to help people, to do tasks they were unable to do, to make alterations for their clothes and many other tasks.

I say all of this to say that if we are trying to only meet the teachings we see most often on the proverbs 31 woman, we might miss all of the other wonderful habits she excelled in. I mean come on, these women would have you thinking the proverbs 31 woman was a business mogul and real estate queen when in fact, the text says she sold garments to merchants, probably the same merchants she went to to purchase her family's food. She was selling useful items to the grocery store or Facebook marketplace not running multilevel marketing businesses trying to sign up workers under herself and definitely not a brick and mortar or even a popup shop.

Remember Caroline, Ma Ingalls who sold her eggs & butter to the mercantile shop in town? Like that. That's what she was doing. She wasn't trying to bring her husband home and replace his income. Too many women are content to work extremely hard to bring home husbands who are supposed to provide for the family and she does it for her own glory and bragging purposes.

And the lady in proverbs 31 bought land once, most likely the lot beside her home to garden, not having rental properties with income flowing in each month. I swear, the modern interpretation of proverbs 31 would have you brainwashed and smothered in busy work.

I am not saying you have to be poor. By all means, if you can make a special thing to sell, whether a book or a garment or cookies or what have you...fine. You can do that. But those were only 2 of the verses of the proverbs 31 woman. She is much, much more than her side hustle and real estate transaction. So i want to encourage you to be sober minded and not enslaved to the modern interpretations of this woman but to see the value and honor in all that she did in her life, remembering that the goal is to grow in righteousness and godliness which IS a means of great gain when coupled with contentment.

Open your bible let's look at the proverbs 31 woman together and decode a few of them.

In verse 14 it says She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. So this woman's pantry looks like a merchant's ship containing food from Walmart, Aldi, Thrive Market, the local farmer who supplies the milk and raw cheese and the lady from facebook who makes excellent soap and the organic cotton towels and sheets she found on Etsy. She has gone all over in search of the quality ingredients and items she wants for her family.

In verse 15 it says She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

This could look like getting up at 430 am to do the last rise for the dough so that baking can take place. And you will make a menu for the day and cook food for your household.

The word portions means prescribed tasks so while you may not have human servants, well you have children you set to task, you also have appliances which serve you. So you could get the first load of laundry in the washer, locate your clips for the clothesline, set out the crock pot so you'll have dinner ready later on and make sure the lawn man takes care of the yard this week and the trash makes it to the pickup location in time. You have servants in your home that you set to work each day to assist you in the management of your home.

One more, In verse 17 it says She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

This looks like the woman who is strong. She is steady and mentally tough and she doesn't fall apart easily, She keeps a level head when necessary and has a sturdy backbone so she can roll the wheelbarrow full of compost to her garden and can shoulder the hurts of her husband who feels defeated in life. and she has strong arms for hand kneading the dough or hauling a 14 lb baby in her carseat or removing her large soup pot down off the top shelf. She isn't so weak and fragile that she requires assistance all the time, but she has strong arms and strong determination to do her tasks for the day and support her family.

See how simple and practical the teachings are in proverbs 31. They are fitting for any generation of believing women and need not cause much anxiety or fear for the woman of God who is more serious about holiness and less worried about wealth.

What about you? What verses from proverbs 31 can you modernize to lend helpful instruction to the younger woman? Let us know down below in the comments section. That's it for today guys...