

What is a man's best hope for financial success? (31:10-11)

An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

THE TEXT (NASB)

An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. KJV - Proverbs 31:10

INTRODUCTION



Great success requires a great worker.

An excellent wife is priceless.

God created woman to help man. Men need help—appropriate assistance! Just how valuable is she?



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COMMENTARY

God has designed a dynamic duo! Note! The text is addressed to men—not women—however both men and women can learn volumes from it. It was written for young men and women to memorize and apply to their own lives. The young men would know what kind of women to look for and the young women would learn the ideals to strive for. Unfortunately a valuable component of its message is lost in the translation, making it more difficult to memorize and personalize.

Memorize and Meditate

In Hebrew each successive statement in this poem begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The author wanted the text to be learned by heart. It speaks to the unmarried but also to those inside the marriage covenant. Although specifically written to address the unique beneficial roles of a wife/homemaker, Proverbs 31:10-31 can serve as an excellent checklist of qualities to be developed by anyone in a support role such as an employee serving an employer. Heart-felt desire and personal discipline are valuable leadership credentials (Colossians 3:23).

Extremely Valuable



The expression **far above jewels** describes a treasure which, having already surpassed silver and gold, now goes not just above jewels but *far* above them. Such a woman will bring her **husband no lack of gain**. The Hebrew word for jewels is translated as *rubies* in the classic KJV, but has also been translated as *coral* or *pearls*. The point is this: Her value goes past silver, gold, and even expensive gems. This same comparison is made in Proverbs 3:14-15 as it praises the supreme worth of wisdom.

Trust Trumps All

The heart of her husband trusts in her. Interpersonal trust is absolutely essential to all relationships. It is first base. Trust is also the foundation of all successful commerce. The Hebrew word for trust, **בטח** (b[?]t^{??}, pronounced “bah-takh”), is better translated by the KJV as “safely trust.” It is a powerful expression denoting absolute confidence. In Psalm 115:9-11 God’s people are instructed to put this type of confidence in God Almighty. Isaiah 31:1 describes how



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such trust can be misplaced.

It all boils down to this. A husband will be greatly blessed, far beyond possessing wealth, by having a wife that he can trust completely.

Created for A Specific Purpose



From the very beginning woman was created to assist man—taken from his side to be with him in work and play. She was taken from his side to be his equal, indeed to walk directly beside him, not three or ten feet behind him, regardless of cultural norms, since all mankind descended from Adam and Eve. I love how Matthew Henry puts it:

The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.¹

This creation account has enormous implications for male:female relationships! The male:female relationship is complementarian not egalitarian -rather like a knife and fork- two different instruments of equal value but for different purposes.

Female Fulfillment

Furthermore, a woman is most fulfilled when she helps her man succeed. The very name “woman” means taken from man (Genesis 2:18-25). Amazing. All animals roaming the surface of the earth were made from earth (soil). Even Adam, the first man was made from soil (Genesis 2:7). On the other hand, the woman was not made from soil but from Adam's side. She is unique! Why was this specific creative process magnified? One reason: To show the dignity of the woman as being fully equal to man, with a different role but with identical worth and honor.

Note the words of Melissa McDonald:

Through several poetic patterns, the poet of Proverbs 31 places the husband at the climax of the poem. He is at the beginning (Proverbs 31:11) and at the end (Proverbs 31:28,29) of the poem. Everything she does is oriented around him. All her other activities and her financial contributions are seen in relation to him. He is the center to all she does. She is spending herself for him, and they together for God.²



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High Energy...Everything!

Note that in the many positive attributes in Proverbs 31, her "sexiness" is not even mentioned. Amazing! Sex should be first according to Hollywood and the mainstream media. Instead, the reader is warned against the shallowness of charm and beauty (Proverbs 31:30). But make no mistake. Any woman who excels in diligence, stamina, creativity, initiative, generosity, industry, and kindness (to name a few character gems) will enjoy and energize nuptial bliss.

A woman with all these qualities is obviously a superwoman. Find out more about her at [What does Superwoman really look like?](#)

OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND

Will Jesus ever get a wife? Jesus never got married, at least not yet.

The bride of Jesus Christ is the Church (Ephesians 5:25-32), the true, universal church of God spanning all centuries and crossing all geographic boundaries (Revelation 7:9).

The Church, the bride of Christ epitomizes the qualities of an excellent homemaker, especially her pure devotion to her husband and her practical righteousness (Revelation 19:7.8). Her beauty flows from the inside out (1 Peter 3:4).

APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Work hard at making your marriage strong; it produces good financial results.
- If you are convinced of the goodness in your cause, don't quit, be loyal.
- Discern the best way to help your supervisor in any support role you have.
- If you are a wife, ask yourself, "Do I motivate my husband to grow spiritually by seeking his counsel and do I respect his advice more than that of other men?"

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take now? Ask Him.



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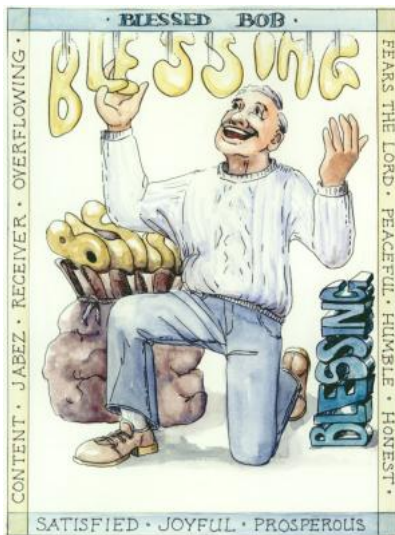
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KEY WORDS

diligence, divorce, employees, employers, food, heart, treasure, loyalty, marriage, more assets (quantity), sex, success

ILLUSTRATION

[Who is Blessed Bob?](#)



Blessed Bob is very fortunate. He recognizes that good things come from God! God is shunned by many, but not by Bob. Bob loves God. He wants to receive all the good things that God has for him. He's not too proud to ask God for help. In fact, Bob prays often. Some think that he prays without ceasing. But he is not without fault. Blessed Bob makes many mistakes, and when he does, he admits his errors. He corrects them and presses on.

Bob gets so many blessings he feels overwhelmed. His cup overflows. But he doesn't hoard his blessings. Like Generous Genevieve, Blessed Bob likes to give to others. He is truly prosperous, even though there are many who are financially richer than he is.

We see examples of Blessed Bob in the Bible in the lives of Job and Joseph. Job went through some very good times (Job 29:2-25) and some very bad times (Job 2:7-8). Joseph had similar financial cycles (Genesis 39:2,21). Both men kept their focus on God, not on their financial condition (Job 1:21, Genesis 50:19-21).

More recently we have examples of those who have lived with the same life focus. R. G. LeTourneau was the inventor of the largest earth moving machines in the 1930's and 1940's. He credited God for his tremendous success. He gave away much of his wealth while he was



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still living saying that, "When I shovel money out to God's interests, God shovels money back to me, but God's shovel is bigger than mine." He was called the mover of men and mountains because of his great work and influence. On his gravestone, R. G. LeTourneau left all visitors with these words, SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU MATTHEW 6:33.

Blessed Bob is full of joy. He is satisfied with life!



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FOOTNOTES

1. Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary of the Bible (1756) Genesis 2:21 - (emphasis mine)

Observe, 1. That Adam was first formed, then Eve (1 Tim. 2:13), and she was made of the man, and for the man (1 Cor. 11:8, 9), all which are urged there as reasons for the humility, modesty, silence, and submissiveness, of that sex in general, and particularly the subjection and reverence which wives owe to their own husbands. Yet man being made last of the creatures, as the best and most excellent of all, Eve's being made after Adam, and out of him, puts an honour upon that sex, as the glory of the man, 1 Cor. 11:7. If man is the head, she is the crown, a crown to her husband, the crown of the visible creation. **The man was dust refined, but the woman was dust double-refined, one remove further from the earth.** 2. That Adam slept while his wife was in making, that no room might be left to imagine that he had herein directed the Spirit of the Lord, or been his counsellor, Isa. 40:13. He had been made sensible of his want of a meet help; but, God having undertaken to provide him one, he does not afflict himself with any care about it, but lies down and sleeps sweetly, as one that had cast all his care on God, with a cheerful resignation of himself and all his affairs to his Maker's will and wisdom. Jehovah-jireh, let the Lord provide when and whom he pleases. If we graciously rest in God, God will graciously work for us and work all for good. 3. That God caused a sleep to fall on Adam, and made it a deep sleep, that so the opening of his side might be no grievance to him; while he knows no sin, God will take care he shall feel no pain. When God, by his providence, does that to his people which is grievous to flesh and blood, he not only consults their happiness in the issue, but by his grace he can so quiet and compose their spirits as to make them easy under the sharpest operations. 4. **That the woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.** Adam lost a rib, and without any diminution to his strength or comeliness (for, doubtless, the flesh was closed without a scar); but in lieu thereof he had a help meet for him, which abundantly made up his loss: what God takes away from his people he will, one way or other, restore with advantage. In this (as in many other things) Adam was a figure of him that was to come; for out of the side of Christ, the second Adam, his spouse the church was formed, when he slept the sleep, the deep sleep, of death upon the cross, in order to which his side was opened, and there came out blood and water, blood to purchase his church and water to purify it to himself. See Eph. 5:25, 26.

2. Who is the Proverbs 31 Woman? by Melissa McDonald (October 4, 2013) - Posted on the site cbmw.org (Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood)

