

Intro:

Main Point of Text: King Lemuel recalls his mother's wise advice to praise a godly wife because she is so rare to find.

Sermon Point: *God Bless a Good and Godly Woman!*

Move 1: *A good and godly woman has a great heart.*

She has a reverent character that is behind her remarkable characteristics:

- Vs. 10a: virtuous, lit. "powerful/strength". Vs. 17: she wears strength. Not weak. No whiner.
- Vs. 13b: works willingly, lit. "in pleasure/delight": she has a good attitude. She's eager to serve.
- Vs. 20: takes care of the needy, because she has a heart for those who need help. She's selfless.
- Vs. 30: she reverences her Heavenly Father. Thus she respects her husband (1 Pet. 3:2; Eph. 5:33).

Move 2: *A good and godly woman is a greatly resourceful and productive worker.*

Because she has a good heart, she has good works. Mat. 7:16, 20 (known by fruits):

- *Resourceful.* Vs. 13a: goes and finds stuff to work with. Vs. 14: committed to succeed. Vs. 16: devises and works a plan; she's entrepreneurial and industrious. Vs. 18, good vision/good investor.
- *Hard worker.* Vs. 19, 22, 24: makes own clothes and sells, like Lydia (Acts 16). Vs. 27b: is busy.
- *Productive.* Vs. 12: could be "ripens good". Prov. 12:4. Her hands (lit., palms five of seven references) a refrain seven times: vss. 13, 16, 19, 20, 31. Because she has a heart for working for the Lord, her hands show it.

Move 3: *A good and godly woman is a great wife and mother.*

She focuses first on her family. Everything she does revolves around them:

- *Husband.* Vs. 11: her "Lord" (vs. 28; 1 Pet. 3:6) can trust her w/ his heart/doesn't doubt hers. He can count on her to take orders/carry them out. Vs. 12: she doesn't grieve him but does him good, "all the days of her life"; Eph. 5:24: subject "in everything". She lives created role: *help meet* (Gen. 2:17, 20).
- *Church Family.* Vs. 23: husband can be an elder and ruler in church and society. Helps all homes.
- *Children.* Vs. 26: she is a good advisor/counselor/disciple of her children. Context: vss. 1-2. Prov. 20:15.
- *Home.* Vs. 15: she feeds her family/servants, cooks! Vss. 18, 27a: she looks after her household. Prov. 14:1a. Proverbs begins w/ counsel to a son from a father; end w/ same advice from a mother: watch out for wrong, wicked women. Look for the right and righteous woman who knows her job is to help you do your job for the Lord in your family, church, and state. She embraces/engages Titus 2:1-6 and 1 Tim. 5:11-15.

Move 4: *A good and godly woman is of great value because she is extremely rare.*

Vs. 10a: lit., “who finds and distant” (have to go out of your way to find one like her). Like searching for rubies, vs. 10b. For she is wise; she is like wisdom: Prov. 3:15. Vs. 29: many good wives, but she’s *great*. Vs. 30: she has lasting value; she appreciates with age. She is so valuable, because she has the greatest values. Like Ruth, who is thus praised by Boaz for wisely choosing him/family (Ruth 3:10-11).

Move 5: *A good and godly woman is to be greatly praised.*

God says that godly women are to be praised for praising Him by who they are and what they do. Vs. 28: her children stand up and at attention to bless her; her husband praises her. Vs. 30b: a woman of God *is to be praised*. Vs. 31: Her honorable service is to be rewarded with distinction, in public: “in the gates”; vs. 23: her husband is there saying how wonderful a help meet she is. While her maturing children also honor her like King Solomon when Bathsheba entered his throne room: 1 Kg. 2:19. Words for “praise” used in Prov. 31:28-31 is “boast/act madly/foolish”. A wise woman will never vainly brag about herself: Prov. 27:1-2. But her husband can’t help himself: he must “brag on her”.

Conclusion:

God Bless a Good and Godly Woman!