

Precepts That Preach

The Preaching Ministry of

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A MOTHER'S HEART

Proverbs 31:10-31

A teacher asked her class what word started with an "M" and was used to pick up things. She was looking for magnet, but most of the class said Mother. Today is the day we celebrate one of God's greatest gifts to the world, a mother. What I will be preaching this morning could be classified as a Mother's Day message; I want to include all women under the umbrella of what I am going to say this morning.

The Bible makes it clear that the man is the head of the family unit. However, the woman must be the crown. When God made woman, He was finished with His creation.

• INFLUENCE IN THE HOME

Godly women are often the backbone of the home. Many children have been schooled at the feet of their mother.

- *George Washington...The greatest teacher I ever had was my mother.*
- *Emerson...Men are what their mothers make them*
- *Abraham Lincoln...All that I am and all that I ever hope to be, I owe to my mother...No man is poor who has a godly mother.*

Some unknown wit has penned...THINGS MY MOMMA TAUGHT ME...

- My mother taught me *LOGIC*...She said, "If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me."
- My mother taught me *ESP*...She said, "Put your sweater on; don't you think I

know when you are cold."

- My mother taught me *TO MEET A CHALLENGE*...She said, "What were you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you...Don't talk back to me."
- My mother taught me *HUMOR*...She said, "When that lawnmower cuts your toes off, don't come running to me."
- My mother taught me about *GENETICS*...She said, "You are just like your Father."
- My mother taught me about my *ROOTS*...She said, "Do you think you were born in a barn?"
- My mother taught me about *ANTICIPATION*...She said, "Just wait till your Father gets home."
- My mother taught me about *RECEIVING*...She said, "You are going to get it when we get home."
- *MY FAVORITE*...My mother taught me about *JUSTICE*...She said, "One day you will have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you...then you will see what it's like!"

• INSPIRATION IN THE CHURCH

Thank God this morning for the inspiration of Godly women in the church. Many churches would have and would have to shut the doors if it were not for the inspiration of Godly women in the church.

In chapter 31 of the book of Proverbs we have the description of a Godly woman. The first verse states the words of King Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. Ancient Jewish tradition identifies King Lemuel as King Solomon, but who is otherwise unknown. I would like to divide this chapter in three sections this morning...

1. Directions She Gives Her Son... vs. 1-9
2. Description She Gives Her Son (Virtuous Woman)... vs. 10-31

<>Virtuous...excellent in all areas, strong in moral qualities, practical in wisdom

- Devoted to Her Family...vs. 11-12, 27-28
- Desires to Help Others... v. 20
- Delicate with Her Conversation...v. 26
- Determination about Tomorrow...v. 25
- Devoted to the Lord...v. 30

Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain...
But a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised!

I. THE TEACHING

A. That which is from WITHOUT will perish

-Charm can be deceptive and beauty doesn't last

-Time has a way of stealing from us what we appear to be on the surface...our physical attributes change.

B. That which is WITHIN will be praised

-Real beauty that will last and not fade away with time is that which is within us.

-It brings blessing to those we encounter.

II. THE TRUTH

...But a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised!

****In Romans 3, Paul gives a detailed account of man's condition without God. In verse 18 he makes this statement...THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.*

A. The Fear of God Defined

1. Misunderstood

-Webster...fear is an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger.

2. Meaning

-When the Bible speaks about the fear of the Lord...

- To stand in awe of
- To reverence
- To honor
- To respect

-God has His rightful place in our heart and life. Our perspective of God is correct, thus proving it by our actions.

- We stand in awe of His greatness and power
- We think much of Him and little of self
- His imprint on our lives will be unmistakably visible

B. The Fear of the Lord Demonstrated

Proverbs 14:2...He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord; but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him

Proverbs 3:7...Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil

Proverbs 14:27...The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death

Proverbs 16:6...By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil

...These passages teach us the truths that what we do proves what we think of God. WE WILL LIVE NO BETTER THAN THE LEVEL AT WHICH WE HONOR AND REVERENCE GOD. If we see the Lord as...

- Being high and holy
- Being a God of judgment
- Being a God who hates sin

...then we will live like we believe that.

...If on the other hand, we have the idea that...

- God just winks at sin
- He will not really judge the world
- He is too loving to chastise His children

...then you will live your life shaped by these truths.

***The way we live our lives will testify to the world what we think of God!

...The Bible says that the woman...man...boy...girl that fears the Lord shall be praised! Does our life testify to the truth that we fear the Lord?

...If you and I would be honest this morning, we would have to admit more often than not,

we fear many other things ahead of fearing God...

- we fear people's opinions of us
- we fear illness
- we fear poverty
- we fear a multitude of things, but too often we simply do not fear the Lord as we should.

...However, when we turn from that sin and decide to walk in the fear of the Lord, we can be assured that there are some special blessings that will come our way...

Proverbs 19:23...The fear of the Lord tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall be satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil

Proverbs 3:8...It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones

...WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO LIVE YOUR LIFE THE WAY YOU DO? Can you honestly say that everything you do, you do because you fear the Lord? Do you need to make some changes in your life this morning to get yourself lined up with the will of God in this matter? If so the altar is open for you to come and do that right now!