



Women To Be Praised

Proverbs 31:10-31 and Selected Scriptures

Mother's Day

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Theme: **Praise women who fear the LORD!**

What does it mean to *fear the Lord*?

1. Clarifying the phrase.

(Proverbs 31:30; cf. Genesis 3:8-10; Job 28:28; Psalm 110:10; Proverbs 1:7; 8:3; 9:10; 14:27; Ecclesiastes 3:14; 12:13; Habakkuk 3:2, 3-16)

2. Clarifying the picture.

(Proverbs 31:10-29)

How do we respond to women who fear the LORD?

1. Praise them!

(Proverbs 31:30)

2. Praise them publically!

(Proverbs 31:31)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Mother's Day has come ... and gone. Was it a meaningful day for you? If you had special thoughts, words or actions for your mother — whether she is still here or finished her course on earth — how are you going to continue or follow through on them in the days ahead?

Tuesday. We are to praise women (and men) who *fear the LORD*. Review the references in the outline and any notes you took on clarifying what that phrase means. Then move on to the picture in Proverbs 31:10-29 of a person who fears the LORD. Look at the list for qualities that apply to women and men and, importantly, to yourself. Remember, the point of this picture is not that one has to be a superwoman or superman who is doing all these things and more at the same time. The point is to give a panorama of the results of, the fruit from fearing God. Where are you at in all of this?

Wednesday. People who fear God are to be praised (Proverbs 31:30). Why do you think we might not focus on praising others, or even find it difficult to do when it comes to spiritual qualities? When was the last time someone praised you for an evidence of your devotion to God? When was the last time you praised someone else for the evidence of his/her devotion to God? Praise at least one person today by telling that person the specific aspects of his/her devotion to God you have noticed.

Thursday. We are to praise people for their devotion God both personally and publically (see Proverbs 31:30-31). Reflect on your thoughts and comments about others — what is the ratio of positive to negative, praise to criticism? Determine to spread the *good news* about others.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to return to our new series in the book of Ephesians with *Praise God!* (Part 2), from 1:6-10. Read chapter 1 in preparation for our time together.