



Summer Sermon Series

The BBC logo is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. It consists of the letters 'B', 'B', and 'C' each enclosed in a white square, which are then arranged horizontally. The background behind the logo is a dark, starry space with a curved horizon line of the Earth in shades of blue and green.

BBC

The title 'PLANET EARTH' is centered horizontally across the middle of the image. The text is in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The background features a large herd of elephants in a savanna landscape, with the Earth's horizon visible in the upper left corner against a starry sky.

PLANET EARTH



This Week's Sermon

"Women, Wisdom, & Jesus"

Proverbs 31:10-31

Proverbs 31:10-31

An excellent wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

13 She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.

Proverbs 31:10-31

14 She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from afar.

15 She rises while it is yet night
and provides food for her household
and portions for her maidens.

16 She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

Proverbs 31:10-31

17 She dresses herself with strength
and makes her arms strong.

18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

19 She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

20 She opens her hand to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Proverbs 31:10-31

21 She is not afraid of snow for her household,
for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

22 She makes bed coverings for herself;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates
when he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells them;
she delivers sashes to the merchant.

Proverbs 31:10-31

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

27 She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Proverbs 31:10-31

28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:

29 “Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”

30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the gates.

1. Proverbs 31 in Context

2. How [Not] to Read Proverbs 31

3. Women, Wisdom, & Jesus



CREATION



FALL



REDEMPTION



RESTORATION



Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

“In a number of ways she parallels Lady Wisdom in chapters 1–9: both are described as more precious than jewels (3:15; 31:10); whoever finds them will have material prosperity (3:13–14; 31:11); wisdom is found at the city gates (1:21), and she is praised there (31:31); wisdom laughs (1:26) at the results of folly, and the woman of chapter 31 also laughs (31:25) at the time to come, because she does not commit folly; the fear of the Lord characterizes her (31:30) and is vital in chapters 1–9 (1:7; 2:5; 8:13; 9:10).

~Lindsay Wilson, *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 17, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 2017), 319.

Her Value

An excellent wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

Her Household

13 She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.

14 She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from afar.

15 She rises while it is yet night
and provides food for her household
and portions for her maidens.

Her Household

21 She is not afraid of snow for her household,
for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

22 She makes bed coverings for herself;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.

27 She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her Business Savvy

16 She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

17 She dresses herself with strength
and makes her arms strong.

18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Her lamp does not go out at night.

19 She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

Her Community

20 She opens her hand to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.

23 Her husband is known in the gates
when he sits among the elders of the land.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Her Praise

28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:

29 “Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”

30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the gates.

“This passage is a rich way to end the book on a high note. While it depicts wisdom exemplified in the life of a woman, it is not a lesson only for women, but for men as well. Both men and women need to be like the ‘Proverbs 31 woman’! As with wisdom in the book as a whole, she establishes herself on the sure foundation of the fear of the Lord. She builds on this with productive activity that benefits her, her family and the community. Her character is shaped by wisdom as well, as she ignores a self-focused lifestyle and shows herself to be a person of great integrity, generosity and care...The ‘good wife’ points us to what Proverbs regards as ‘the good life’.”

~Lindsay Wilson, *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 17, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 2017), 324.

1. Proverbs 31 in Context
2. How [Not] to Read Proverbs 31
3. Women, Wisdom, & Jesus



“Even if you didn’t know anything about the audience or the context, just look at all this woman does! She’s perfect in every way. She beats the sun out of bed in the morning to make food for her husband and all their servants. She stays up all night making merchandise to sell the next morning. She’s both a night owl and an early bird! She makes the food, makes the clothes, earns the money, and deals with the kids. It makes you wonder what in the world was left for the husband to do! The “ideal wife” interpretation of Proverbs 31 assumes it’s possible to find the perfect spouse in our fallen world. But it’s not. . . apart from Christ.”

~Jim Davis, “Where to Find the Proverbs 31 Woman”

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/find-proverbs-woman/>



OR



be perfect



do it all



never let 'em see you sweat



“

Like, we have to *always* be extraordinary, but somehow we're always doing it wrong.

”

1. Proverbs 31 in Context
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“In my 30s, I started to explore the historical question of whether Christianity is good for women. The answer? A resounding, “Yes.” This cuts against what most of my non-Christian friends believe. In their minds, Christianity is repressive and demeaning to women, and any differentiation of roles is anathema. But they don’t realize that many of the things we take for granted when it comes to the value of women were given to us by Christianity.

“The Greco-Roman world was as much as two-thirds male (due to maternal deaths in childbirth and infanticide of unwanted baby girls). But historical records suggest that the early Christian movement was as much as two-thirds female. There were doubtless many reasons for this, but one was that Christianity placed a value on women that the belief systems of the first and second century did not.

“Women were made in the image of God, jointly called to his service, and deserving of the love and sacrifice of their husbands. Christian women were allowed to marry later than was typical in Greco-Roman culture, and Christian men were called to be monogamous and faithful, and to prioritize their wives needs above their own. This was radical. And Christianity was ridiculed as a religion of women.”

~Rebecca McLaughlin, <https://www.propelwomen.org/content/is-christianity-good-for-women/gjebf9>

“If it is true that Christianity is at heart, bad for women, it’s very strange that women have always been more proportionately drawn to Jesus than men.”



~Rebecca McLaughlin, The Confronting Christianity Podcast: “Jesus Through The Eyes of Women”

“The four New Testament Gospels tell multiple stories of Jesus relating to women. Poor women. Rich women. Sick women. Grieving women. Old women. Young girls. Jewish women. Gentile women. Women known for their sinfulness. Women known for their virtue. Virgins and widows. Prostitutes and prophetesses. Looking through their eyes, we see a man who valued women of all kinds — especially those vilified by others. Indeed, the way that Jesus treated women tore up the belief that women are innately inferior to men: a belief that was pervasive in the ancient world. We should not be surprised, therefore, that women have been flocking to Jesus ever since.”

~Rebecca McLaughlin, *Jesus Through the Eyes of Women*, 11.



Henryk Siemiradzki, "Christ and Samaritan Woman" - 1890



“How do we see Jesus through the eyes of these repentant prostitutes? We see him as the only man who welcomes them not for what he can get but for what he can give. We see him as the one who does not count their history against them, but who knows each detail of their past and welcomes them into his stunning future. We see him as a magnet for those who feel like scraps of human metal on life’s junk heap, picking up the broken and abused and drawing them into his kingdom of love.”

~Rebecca McLaughlin, *Jesus Through the Eyes of Women*, 130-131.



“This woman’s sickness was reckoned as if she had a menstrual period all month long; it made her ceremonially unclean under the Law (Lev. 15:19-33) – a social problem on top of the physical one. . . If she touched anyone or anyone’s clothes, she rendered that person ceremonially unclean for the rest of the day. She therefore should not have even been in that heavy crowd. Many teachers avoided touching women altogether, lest they become accidentally contaminated. Thus this woman could not touch or be touched, was probably now divorced or had never married and was marginal to the rest of Jewish society.”

~Craig Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. 211-212.



The Raising of Jairus's Daughter. 1871
Repin Ilya

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

“Her [Proverbs 31 Woman] perfection foreshadows our wisdom from God: Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:30).

Who else works for you around the clock, even as you sleep (Rom. 8:34)? Who else offers you something more valuable than jewels (John 14:6)? Who else denies himself that you may be blessed (Phil. 2:7)? Who else takes on burdens so you may be praised (1 Pet. 2:24)? Who else perfectly fears the Lord in a praiseworthy way (Matt. 3:17)? Who else brings us all these blessings, just from being in a relationship with him (John 3:16)? Who took the shame of God’s wrath on the cross so we might be praised by God at the eternal gates (2 Cor. 5:21)? Only Jesus!”

~Jim Davis, TGC, “Where to Find the Proverbs 31 Woman”

“Through these healed women’s eyes, we see Jesus as the one who can make us whole if we just touch the hem of his garment, but whose garments were divided up by lot and given to the soldiers who crucified him (Luke 23:34; Matt. 27:35). We see him as the one who came to bear our griefs and carry our sicknesses, the one who bled for us more painfully than the menstruating woman bled, the one who died for us more absolutely than the 12-year-old girl died, the one whose back was bent under the weight of a cruel cross so our backs could be straightened up one day, when he calls us from our graves and welcomes us as sons and daughters of Abraham.”

~Rebecca McLaughlin, *Jesus Through the Eyes of Women*, 122.

Gospel Response

Faith in Christ is true wisdom