

SCC MEN'S SATURDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

April 18, 2026 7:30 AM – Proverbs 31

Proverbs 31 is distinctive for its two-part structure: first, King Lemuel's mother warns him that a leader's strength is squandered by indulgence and injustice, urging him instead to defend the vulnerable. Second, the famous portrait of the "woman of noble character" celebrates a life shaped by wisdom: industrious, generous, God-fearing, and marked by quiet strength.

What's There? Searching the Scriptures

Verses 1-9 – Sayings of King Lemuel

- A. King Lemuel's mother starts by asking, "What are you doing, my son?" and warns him not to give his strength to what "destroys kings." Why do you think positions of leadership (whether in a family, workplace, or community) make us more vulnerable to using our "strength" for self-indulgence rather than service?

- B. Verses 4-7 warn that kings should not crave wine lest they "forget what has been decreed." How does "intoxication" (literal or metaphorical, like an addiction to power or approval) cause us to "forget the law" and mistreat people?

- C. Verses 8-9 command the king to "*Open your mouth for the mute*" and judge righteously. In your own sphere of influence, who are the "mute" or "voiceless"? What does it look like practically to "open your mouth" for them?

Verses 10-31 A Wife of Noble Character

- D. What are some of the words used to describe the noble woman in verses 10-22? What stands out to you?

- E. The Hebrew word for "virtuous" or "excellent" (*chayil*) in verse 10 is often used in the Bible to describe "mighty men of valor" or military strength. How does viewing this woman as a "warrior" change the way we see her domestic work (planting fields, making clothes, trading)?
- F. We are told her husband is "*known in the gates*" (v. 23) and that he "*trusts in her*" (v. 11). How does the integrity of one spouse (or friend/partner) directly empower the public success of the other?
- G. Verse 25 says she "*laughs at the time to come.*" What specific habits or mindsets allow this woman to face the unknown with laughter instead of anxiety?
- H. According to verse 30 beauty can be a "deceitful" thing. In what ways can relying on charm or external polish actually hinder someone from developing the "fear of the Lord"?
- I. In verse 31 a reward is mentioned. What do you think it is?

So What & What Now? - Applying the Scriptures

What is your favorite Proverb in chapter 31?

What steps can we take to ensure that, at the end of our days, we will be remembered as ones who feared and loved the Lord?

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