

Mother's Day 2025 (Proverbs 31)

Men stand and pray over our ladies: (can be a difficult day for many): we honor all ladies!

A vision of Discipleship and Worship: A Prayer for our future

-There is always a danger when we set a standard that no one can meet (it brings guilt; shame; discouragement; despair) -Is. 42:3 “a bruised reed He will not break; a smolderwick not snuff out”

*Now on Mothers' day many women avoid church, b/c it hurts too much -its such a loaded day! ☹️
(no kids; lost kids; moms died; single moms) worse: kids don't care; husband no clue; do it ur self

-Today I don't want to preach about the “ideal” or perfect woman. *All of us are unfinished journey*

-Plus, there is NO Prov. 32 on the “ideal man” ...doesn't seem fair ☺️ -1 Tim. 3:1-7 (*Elder qualificat*

*This is **not** a sermon about *do more; be better; step it up; get it in gear* ladies...this is a sermon about -WOW...think about the GIFT that Jesus IS for us; about what **He** has done for us; that He *already* [in this very moment, right where you sit] He already perfectly loves us (as we are) & NOT b/c *we did anything* & NOT b/c we are going to do something more worthy of His love later this week. The GOOD NEWS of the gospel is that God loves *you NOW*. Think about the fact of what **He alone offers you...right now...how He alone is pursuing you right now...just to give you more of Himself and rid you of more of this world, to rid you of the unberable burden of weight, guilt, shame, and hurt this world heaps upon you every day. (this is NOT about what you can do or should do)- it's about what He did; has done; & IS doing now**

-Isaiah 55:1-3 “You there! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no ^lmoney come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.

² Why do you ^lspend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. ³ Incline your ear and come to Me, Listen, that you may live” -This is about what Jesus has done; what He freely offers

-Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to Me, all ^lwho are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find ^lrest for your souls.” Anyone weary today; discouraged today? Burdened w/Sin? Hurting?

For the Father's glory, Jesus *lives* to love you; to forgive you; to intercede for you; to pursue you; to gift you with time with Him; to gift you with Joy, life, hope, purpose, grace, power and LIFE!!

Have you tasted this? Have you partaken? Have you been unburdened? Freed? Rescued? **Made alive? Given Joy everlasting? Have you tasted and seen that the Lord is good? & ready to forgive??

-So **BECAUSE** He has done this for us; *because* He has loved us; Because HE has chosen us to show His unfathomable love toward us; because we are perfectly loved; because we are perfectly forgiven; because we are perfectly accepted; Perfectly secure; perfectly adored; perfectly empowered with His Spirit ...**we NOW get to love others** in the *same* way that we have been loved, forgiven, and accepted!!! We get to serve others, as our new family, redeemed and adopted by the Lord for His glory . . . we get to serve and bless others like we have been blessed!

HOW?

HOW? Pastor how do we practically show the Love of God to these around me -these who need spiritual nourishing and nurturing? I want to show you from the end of Proverbs 31...

-I want to exegete the end of Prov. 31 and show you; a focus on a vision of **Discipleship & Worship**

-So I want to talk to ALL of ladies (not just moms) -I want to encourage & challenge every woman:

I want to remind ALL of us: We are a church, a family of families -families of all types (even our amazing Singles and widows) – and we are a family full of *broken* and *unfinished* people! **God has given us to each other**; =members of one another; **We are a part of the same Lord; same Spirit; same baptism; same calling; same future; same NEED: All of us need spiritual nourishing and nurturing!** & The Lord has uniquely gifted & qualified our ladies to be more *effective* nurturers than our gentlemen. (**who do kids run to when they skin their knee, fall down, hit their head? Not to dad.** BUT who do kids run to play hard and have fun?)

So, in the church: **all women have a place and a need to mother, to nurture, to nourish others** in the WORD, by their prayer, service, encouragement, spiritual gifting, and through their spiritual investment into others: (**discipleship!**) *Every woman in our church is NEEDED to raise others up!*

What does discipleship produce? =(God-fearers, God praisers, God lovers, God amazers, God worshipers)-worshippers of Lord for His glory: I want to show you this vision at the end of Prvbs:

Read Proverbs 31: 26-31 *A Vision and Prayer for Discipleship and Worship**

-What can we all pray to aspire to? What are the characteristics of a Discipuler? A Nurturer?

Vs. 26: She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

²⁷ She watches over the activities of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸ Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*: ²⁹ “Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all.” ³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *But* a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. ³¹ Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her!

-Let's spend a few minutes thinking biblically how this vision of a person *given to* and *yielded to* the Lord is consumed with God's glory & for His glory, pouring out their life to bless, nourish, and spiritually nurture those all around them:

-go to the mall autie ann's pretzels; cinnabon = smell is intoxicating/draws you in; can't ignore it!

-2 Cor. 2:15-16 “For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing: ¹⁶ to the one an [a]roma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life.” -the person described in Prov. 31 has a purpose & aura about them to draw people to them b/c they smell like life (like those who've been rescued and they never got over it; they are joyful and hopeful; & kind and attractional b/c **they are perfectly loved by Jesus**)

NOTICE here in this Proverbs that

1. A spiritual nurturer reflects God's grace because they've tasted deeply of His grace!

Vs. 26: She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. [NKJV: law of kindness] -i.e. **faithful instruction and gentle instruction** (coax a kitten out of tree/under bed=with gentleness & grace and sweetness NOT harsh/unkind words/tones)

The person who has a **heart** to nourish, to nurture, to spiritually invest in others, the one *marked* by God's grace is one who is given to godly wisdom/ to the fear of the Lord/ to the presence of God. **They are changed! They are Transformed.** = They speak *wisdom* because they have wisdom; b/c **they have Christ** who is wisdom personified; they have truth on their lips & love in their heart for the Lord and the lost! Jesus is their grace. Jesus is their wisdom =& still **offers to all**

Because these have tasted deeply of God's grace and kindness toward them....in return....

-They are full of kindness; full of grace; patience; goodness & their speech is life-giving & filled w/ hope! ****don't you want to be known as someone like this??**

-Romans 2:4 "Or do you think lightly of the riches of God's kindness and restraint and patience, **not knowing** (not remembering) **that it's the kindness of God that leads you to repentance.**"

-Col. 4:6 "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to **answer everyone.**"

*People who have been radically nurtured by Christ back to life, they have a huge capacity to nurture others back to life! (**had a studder as a child; walk w/braces; hairlip; u get it! Now a deep well of grace, patience, kindness to those who may be suffering today w/same ailment**).

APPLICATION: The Lord has called each one of us to spiritually invest our lives into others; to do that effectively and faithfully, we need to work on asking the Spirit to take over our minds, hearts, and mouths = to **be** kind and grace-filled, patient, and helpful with others.

-Who is around that no one else "SEES"? Who needs extra care, extra grace, -annoying, rude??

-Who has the Lord put in your path, and hasn't removed them (even though you've tried)??

-In what ways can you grow in patience, kindness, gentleness, forbearance, helpfulness

-In what ways do you need to grow into Christlikeness, looking like/acting like Jesus? **Exten grace**

Vs. 26: **She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue**

-The Bible is saying that people who are effective nurturers, disciplers are living out of the deep well of grace they have received themselves! This is reflected practically by how the Spirit gives us grace, kindness, and godly-biblical wisdom to others as we sp. nurture & disciple others....

2. A Spiritual nurturer reflects God's mission because they were rescued by His mission

Vs. 27: **She watches over** [oversees/manages] **the activities of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.**

-Because we who are in Christ and who have been transformed by His love & grace, we are gifted with His Holy Spirit who lives in us (takes up residence) and God's Spirit empowers us to see the world as He sees it (the lost/hurting/hopeless/abandoned/lonely/unlovable) – and to pursue them with passion. The spiritual nurturer is filled with God's Spirit and is **ACTIVE** and **INTENTIONAL** about being uncomfortable while serving the least of these; (moms have a special ability to deal with poop; throw-up; blood; baby grossness without ever letting their love dampen in the process) Moms have a super-power "to do the hard without losing hope for the reason why they do the hard" -they step into those moments precisely b/c they love the helpless & the needy (their kids; others' kids; those who are abandoned).

(story of a firefighter who became a firefighter b/c when he was a child he was rescued by a firefighter out of his burning home; It impacted him; it changed his worldview; gave him a vision for a life of purpose -helping those who cannot save themselves)

-Those who are transformed have a passion to serve since they have been so well served by Christ; they are not passive; not lazy; not idle; because the Spirit within them is NOT idle. God is very much still on His mission and calls each of us to be on mission w/Him.

-His mission is people. His mission is the least of these. His mission is the outcast, the needy and the spiritually READY ...we have a church full of ready people who need to be discipled by YOU!!!

Wisdom personified (a woman bent on making much of her opportunities & responsibilities):

-Prov. 9:1-6 "Wisdom has built her house, She has carved out her seven pillars;

² She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table;

³ She has sent out her attendants, she calls out From the tops of the heights of the city:

⁴ "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks understanding she says,

⁵ "Come, eat of my food And drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ Abandon *your* foolishness and live, And proceed in the way of understanding." Can you see the image of the nurturer, the nourisher,

the discipler ...she sets the table, she's active, intentional, prepared, and ready to invite others into Christ's goodness, kindness, spiritual richness, hope and help. She has prepared for the sake of others to be blessed. She's active and not idle in her heart & actions to bless others b/c she's been so blessed by Christ! She can't wait for others to taste and see that the Lord is good!!!

APPLICATION: -what have you been given that you are ready to lose and give away for the sake of the gospel? What are you prepared to leverage that others who don't have can have some?

-Spiritually, are you preparing your heart and mind to shepherd others toward the cross? Toward Jesus? Toward hope? - are you willing, active, intentional in preparing yourself to disciple others? To spiritually invest in others? To help others grow into Christlikeness

-This WILL cost you! It's supposed to. In discipleship, you get to give yourself away because Christ already gave you ALL of Himself and all for you. Others are waiting to know Him....

3. A spiritual nurturer reflects God's glory because they have been consumed with His glory

³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.*

At the end of this proverbs, here is another contrast between wisdom and foolishness. Between what is earthly and temporal compared to what is spiritual and eternal. Things on this earth will not only NOT last, but can never truly satisfy a heart that was created by God to crave eternity.

-God has created each of us for a relationship with Him. A daily, personal, intimate, rel. w/Him first

-As we get MORE of the LORD in our life, we get more life. He gave all so we could experience true life; spiritual life; eternal life; soul-satisfying life; joy-filled, exhilarating life beyond imagination. This is what He gives to those who seek Him first and most in all areas of their life!

***He's the gift. He's the prize of our souls!!** The fear of the Lord is our humble foundation, the basis of our praise & worship, the very substance of our right perspective that He alone is God & we are NOT; that we live to serve Him; worship Him; honor Him; and we do that through a life of

sacrificial service to His Presence and His Mission because we have been rescued by that very God on His very mission to redeem us and make us alive and make us His forever.

-The proverbs here is teaching us that those who have been transformed by Christ, by godly wisdom & eternal purpose *are no longer satisfied* with simple, earthly, temporal, fading trinkets and counterfeit pleasures -but they are consumed with His glory, =the desire to get more of God and all of God within every inch of their life. To be consumed with the glory of God in ALL of their life.

To have FEAR of the Lord is to rightly worship God, to reverence Him, to be in continual awe of Him and this becomes the basis of our worth. We become glory receptacles. We get His glory because we get the Lord in us and shine forth His glory through us. **The moon is a big orbital chunk of space rock and dust. It has no light. Nothing brilliant about it. It is lifeless BUT as the light of the sun hit it, the moon reflects that overwhelming light and shines brightly to light our earth at night – a beacon so steady and needed to allow our very world to function.**

-Because we were created to reflect the glory of God within us because He has given Himself for us and now to us, others are affected by the glorious gospel that flows through us to them.
-Because we have tasted and seen of His goodness; we are called to reflect/shine that goodness.

***Not only do we get to simply point to the Lord, we get to display the fullness of the Lord within us =Because He has changed us -we are no longer the same. We are His; we are adopted; we are heirs. His worth is our worth; His identity becomes our identity; His future becomes our future; and His glory becomes our glory** because He shares with us Himself. Our union with Christ is the foundation of our relationship with Christ. We get Him! -**People should notice this in us!! You??**

Listen to how the Proverbs describes the one gets it; the one who is consumed with God's glory, His presence, and the life of godly wisdom that pours forth from His presence within us:

-Prov. 3:13-18 **"Blessed is a person who finds wisdom, And one who obtains understanding. 14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver, And her produce better than gold. 15 She is more precious than [f]jewels, And nothing you desire compares with her. 16 [g]Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are those who hold on to her."**

This describes one who has been consumed by God's glory and is no longer satisfied with what the world offers as life....

-Eph. 3:19 **"to be filled with all the FULLNESS of God"**

APPLICATION

-What consumes you in this life? The have to's or the get to's?

-What dictates your life? Your schedule? Your routine? -Is it time for a change? Overhaul?

-What do people see when they watch your life?

If God's glory is the most important reality of this life and the next, what can you do now to get more of His glory and spread more of His glory, and shine more of His glory to a watching world?

- 1. A spiritual nurturer reflects God's grace because they've tasted deeply of His grace!**
- 2. A Spiritual nurturer reflects God's mission because they were rescued by His mission**
- 3. A spiritual nurturer reflects God's glory because they have been consumed with His glory**

Are these true of you??

Vs.31: Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her

=Everyone's life will show for what they have built with their life, with the time afforded to them; what they have built that will outlast them. Their living legacy. Their spiritual investment into people's lives. Their spiritual nourishing; their spiritual nurturing; their discipleship of souls. This matters NOW and it will matter in all of eternity!!

What are you doing now, investing in now that will outlast you? What are you investing in that is eternal, that is for His glory alone?

THEREFORE... Vs. 25: **And she smiles at the future.** ☺ Confidence. Hope. Purpose now & for etern.