

A Woman Who Fears The LORD . . .

(A Study on Proverbs 31)



Extends Her Hand To The Needy

INTRODUCTION

The love that *A Woman Who Fears the LORD* has for God compels her to reach out to the poor and needy. She not only extends her hands to the needs of her loved ones, but also has a compassionate heart that touches and helps those who are physically as well as spiritually destitute. Her love for God enables the needy to see and know Him.

Scripture declares that God is good, compassionate, tenderhearted and full of mercy. In His great love for mankind, He sent His Only Begotten Son who became poor so that man could become spiritually rich. His mission on this earth is to set free those who are captive to sin, to feed the hungry, minister to the hurting, heal the sick and brokenhearted. Though He is the Son of God, Christ can identify with mankind through His birth in a stable, His lowly work as a carpenter and the humble way that He lived. In His death He entered our deepest pain by taking on Himself the blame for the sin and suffering of the world. Through the miracle of His resurrection, those who have confessed Him as Lord, whether they be rich or poor, will inherit spiritual life on this earth as well as life everlasting in the life to come.

THEME SCRIPTURE

She extends¹ her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches² out her hands to the needy (Proverbs 31:20).

MEMORY VERSE

If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday (Isaiah 58:10).

¹ *extends*: stretch forth, spread abroad, spread self out; enlarge.

² *reaches*: reach forth to touch.

I. THE GOOD DEEDS OF A VIRTUOUS³ WOMAN

READ Proverbs 31:4-9, 20, 26.

King Lemuel's mother is a wise woman, she fears the LORD. What did she strongly warn her son not to do (vv. 4-7)? Why?

What wise counsel did she give to her son the king (vv. 8, 9)? _____

The queen mother taught her son characteristics of a woman who fears the LORD. What did she teach him (vv. 20, 26)?

II. THE MISSION OF CHRIST

1. READ Isaiah 61:1-3.

Isaiah prophesied concerning the mission of Christ. What mission was Christ anointed to accomplish on this earth?

v. 1 _____ ⁵

_____ ⁶

³ VIRTUOUS: woman of valor; worth, excellence, noble character and strength.

⁴ pervert justice: alter, to be given to change; disguise, be diverse.

⁵ anointed: rub with oil, set apart; consecrated.

⁶ good tidings: the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ; His birth, life, death, resurrection, salvation.

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v. 2 _____

v. 3 _____

11

2. READ Matthew 11:1-6.

John the Baptist, Christ’s cousin, was called of God to be the herald of the Messiah.¹²

What did Christ do after He chose His disciples and instructed them (v. 1)? _____

Where was John (v. 2)? _____

What did John tell his disciples to ask Jesus (v. 3)? _____

⁷ heal: wrap firmly; gird about.

⁸ brokenhearted: to burst, break down in pieces, crush, hurt.

⁹ captives: prisoners, those taken away.

¹⁰ bound: put in bonds, tied.

¹¹ trees of righteousness: strong tree as an oak; mighty, support pillar.

¹² Messiah: the coming anointed One; Jesus.

What answer did Jesus give the disciples of John (vv. 4-6)? _____

PERSONAL

How has Christ reached out and touched your life when you were physically or spiritually poor and needy?

III. THE GOOD SAMARITAN

READ Luke 10:25-37.

In this parable,¹³ Jesus teaches a lawyer who was testing Him to reach out and give a helping hand to those in need.

What title did the lawyer¹⁴ give to Jesus and what did he ask Him (v. 25)? _____

Where did Jesus tell the lawyer to find his answer (v. 26)? _____¹⁵

What did the lawyer quote from the Scriptures (v. 27)? _____

¹³ parable: a story to illustrate and teach a deep spiritual truth.

¹⁴ lawyer: expert in the Mosaic Law.

¹⁵ law: the Commandments, the Word of God.

What would happen to the man if he obeyed this Law (v. 28)? _____

What did the lawyer say justifying himself (v. 29)? _____

What happened to the traveler in the parable (v. 30)? _____

What did the priest¹⁶ do (v. 31)? _____

What did the Levite¹⁷ do (v. 32)? _____

What did the Samaritan¹⁸ do (vv. 33-35)? _____

Which one reached out to touch and help the poor and wounded man (v. 36, 37a)? _____

What did Christ command the lawyer to do (v. 37b)? _____

PERSONAL

Tell of a time when you walked away from someone in need that God put directly in your path?

¹⁶ priest: one who was actively involved in the daily sacrifices in the temple.

¹⁷ Levite: a member of the priestly tribe who served occasionally in the temple assisting the priest.

¹⁸ Samaritan: half-breed inhabitants of Samaria who were despised by the Jews.

What could you do to help someone who is in desperate need? _____

IV. GIVE AND BE BLESSED

What do the following Scriptures teach concerning reaching out to the physically and spiritually needy? Who taught it? What promise is there for you?

Proverbs 25:21, 22 _____

Isaiah 58:6-8 _____

Matthew 5:40-45 _____

Matthew 19:16-22

Luke 6:38

19

Luke 12:31-34

20

Acts 20:35

Ephesians 4:28

¹⁹ bosom: large bag in the Eastern dress; generosity reaps boundless generosity.
²⁰ alms: compassionateness, beneficence, good deeds.

PERSONAL

How has God blessed you when you have sacrificially given to someone in need? _____

CHALLENGE

SUMMARIZE the following Scriptures to encourage yourself to start reaching out to those in need.

Proverbs 11:25 _____

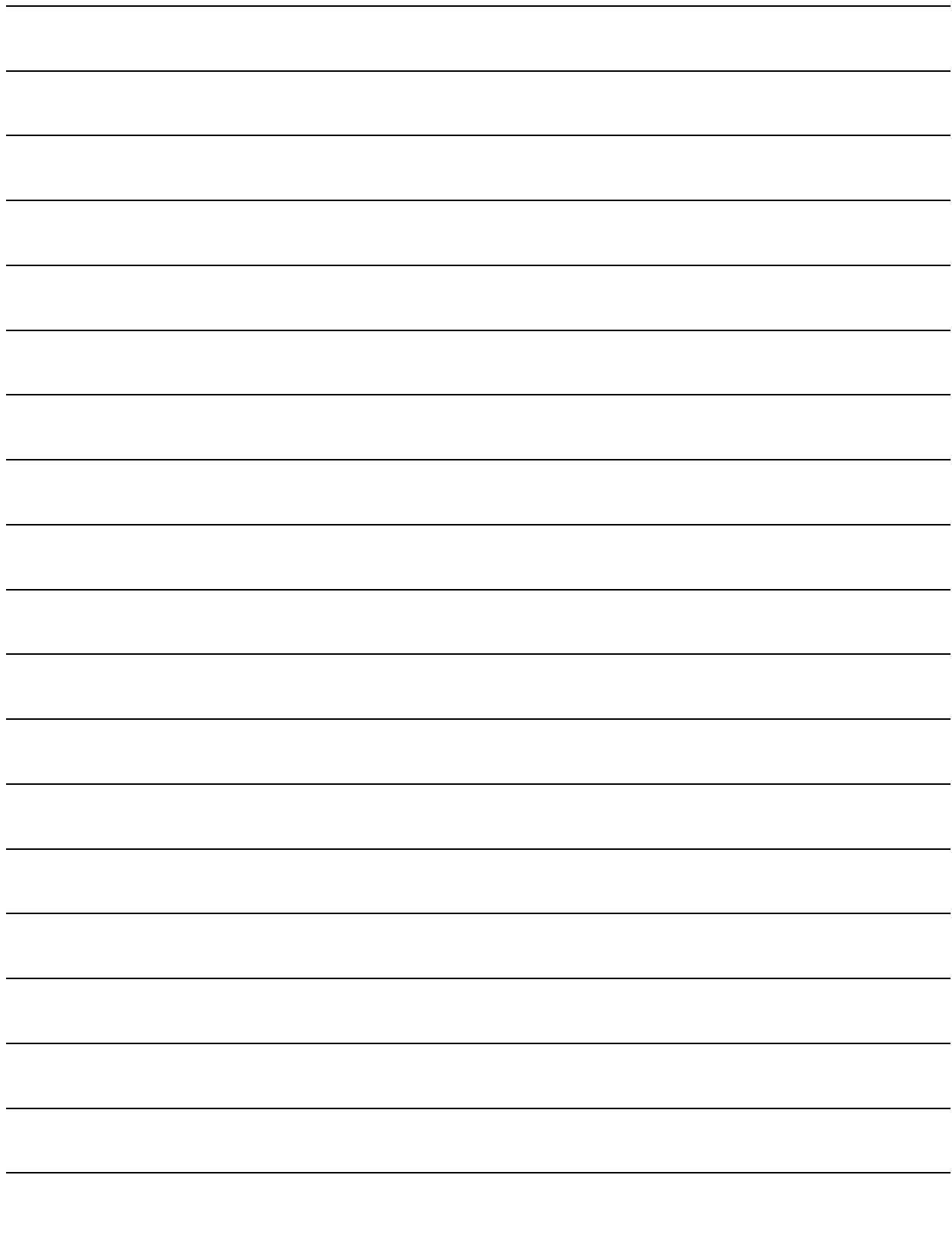
Malachi 3:10 _____

II Corinthians 9:6-11 _____

*Open your mouth for the speechless,
in the cause of all who are appointed to die.
Open your mouth, judge righteously,
and plead the cause of the poor and needy.*

Proverbs 31:8, 9

NOTES: _____



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