



THE LEGACY OF RUBIES AND PEARLS

Women of Faith Empowering Women to Live, Love and Hope!

Women On The Rise

Women's Empowerment Bible Study

TOPIC:

Stronger Women Through Faith

Series 1.1



“ There are two ways to build a home. First, we need to gather the nails, wood, cement and the workers. The others involves the metaphor of the latter to make the house a home.” Alkeeta Israel

“A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.” Proverbs 14:1

This WE Study Guide is dedicated to the women of faith who continue to build the house of God on a sturdy and stable foundation.

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Alkeeta Israel, Monarch of the Jewish Nation of Israel

Tel: (919) 670-6457

Email: info.daughterzion@gmail.com

Web: www.legacyofrubiesandpearls.weebly.com

Meetup: www.Meetup.com/LegacyWomen

Toll-Free Conference Call: (641) 715-3580

Access Code: 798-541

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Introduction: Stronger Women, Better Men

There are many women in the world that have made a great impact in their community and most importantly their family because of their personal strengths. These women have taken care of the young and old, worked countless hours to managed their families, and clocked in and out of various jobs outside of the home. These same women were able to help others by their own strengths and virtues of their multi-purpose talents. It would be the wisdom of any community to honor the women who have been an additional fortifying part of its community.

The structure of any civilization is in the honor and prestige given to women. After all, most civilizations were led by men but women was created from man. For man to honor woman was also to honor himself as well. Recognizing that he was given a partner that could assist with additional responsibilities that would create a productive atmosphere where he could perform task more efficiently. This partnership required the gift of trust as they worked to achieve the same common goal of building up their family, friends and community members. Both man and woman knew they could depend on the other to perform the required task and if necessary could perform additional task that would better assist each others success.

As I began to analyze the many strengths and weaknesses of women and men, I began to understand my own weaknesses better. I must say that I have a lot of strengths as woman and I am assured they come from my faith in Jesus Christ. However, it is often times more difficult for people to examine their own weaknesses. The vulnerability of being honest and open with someone, even ourselves, can seem daunting to say the least. I can pride myself on a lot of the character strengths that I possess and of those that I continue to develop and strengthen; however, to look deep inside myself to actually strengthen the weaker parts of me or at least recognize them is difficult.

In transparent view, I would have to say that my weakness is my need to be loved, needed and desired, especially by men. It seems like a lot of women could share in this same weakness that I have. While some may believe that this weakness is a fault of some issues of my abusive childhood or my personal relationship with my parents. I do not believe much scientific analyzing is required to understand the psychology of loving a person. When God created Adam, he was alone and lonely. Neither the birds, animals, wildlife or aquatic life could appease Adam with the warmth and love of human companionship. After seeing the loneliness and agony of Adam's loneliness, God put him to sleep and created woman from the flesh and rib of man. We learn that the first woman, Eve, was created from man and for man. Later, Eve caused her husband to sin and God punished her with these words, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you." (Gen. 3:16)

It is a natural desire to be loved by man, we were genetically predisposed to desire their love and affection. God understood that women would desire to break free of man realizing her own strengths to perform so many job duties. However, God always planned for woman to be stronger and man to get better. Man was not made to fall in love with any other creature other than woman. In addition, woman was not created to only love herself if man was to love her. Women were created by God as a precious gift of His love for mankind and all humanity for generations to come. In essences, as women become stronger in their faith and their love for God grows then they will fully embrace the value of the virtuous woman that has been admired by so many people. The Proverbs 31 woman is a woman who loved herself so much that she did not allow distractions to hinder her dedication to God for whom she performed her responsibilities in her home, with her children and throughout her community. The Proverbs 31 woman is a woman to be admired and a role model for all women and men alike.

The Proverbs 31 Woman

10 Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

11 Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.

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

13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it.

14 She is like a merchant's ship, bringing her food from afar.

15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.

16 She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17 She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.

18 She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night.

19 Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.

20 She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.

21 She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.

22 She makes her own bedspreads. She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns.

23 Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders.

24 She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants.

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.

26 When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness.

27 She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.

28 Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her:

29 "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!"

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.

31 Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

Reflective Thoughts: **The Precious Gem**

1. What are the virtuous qualities of the Proverbs 31 Woman?

2. How was she able to enhance your home?

3. In what ways was she able to assist her community?

4. What do you admire most of the Proverbs 31 Woman?

5. Do you feel you relate to her? Why or Why not?

6. In your own words, what does it mean to fear the Lord?

Directions: Read the skit below. Next, identify the problem with the scenario. Find practical solutions that can help resolve the issue. We will act out the skit afterwards as a group to apply one of the practical solutions.

Dana is an salaried supervisor at Ice Kingdom Roller Skates. She is working late on a Saturday night. She doesn't enjoy her job because of her long hours, demanding job description and modest pay. While working she notices several teenagers who look suspicious but she cannot prove they are doing anything wrong. She watches them secretly on the surveillance camera and realizes that they are begging several of her customers for money as they enter the store. This is against the company policy and puts both the customers and business in jeopardy. She is a woman of faith but she also has a job to perform as a supervisor, so she must set the proper environment for the organization.

Think of the issue that Dana is expected to solve. Answers the question below.

1. What is the issue in the story?

2. What are some possible solutions to the issue?

3. Can Dana help the youth in her community while still performing her job description? How?

4. What are some ways that you would like to assist others in your community?

Closing Reflection

“A man can only love a woman as much as he loves himself. A woman can only love a man as much as she loves herself. Sadly, many woman confuse the lack of love received from men as an excuse to love themselves less.” Alkeeta Israel

“For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to be holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead she will be holy and without fault. In the same ways husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body.” Ephesians 5:22-30