

## I. The End of a Great Study: The Book of Proverbs

For seven years, we have been working our way through this incredible book. I will tell you, looking back, it probably has been for me anyhow—I cannot speak for you—but personally, one of the best studies that I went through. I am not somebody who just sits down and then puts some things out. I put a lot of time and effort into what I am going to say, and I look at a lot of things and exhaust a lot of trails. But it has been a marvelous book.

I told you when we started this book and throughout the course of it, if there is any one book that I would like to have total recall of, it would be the Book of Proverbs. The Book of Proverbs is just incredible. You remember I gave you the breakdown of the book that I think is really the key to it. In Proverbs 1-7, he starts almost every chapter with the opening, "My son." He gives his son instructions in what he is supposed to do to prepare himself for what is going to follow in Proverbs 8-30. In Proverbs 8-30, which is our second section, this is where you find the actual proverbs. Then we come to Proverbs 31, where we have been here for the last month or so. We now see the end result of a principled life found in the story of the virtuous woman.

I also remember telling you that 1 Kings 4:32 tells us that Solomon wrote over 3,000 proverbs. To most people, that probably does not mean much, but to me, it simply means that out of all of that—because we did not get all 3,000—God then handpicked what He wanted me to have. That in itself makes the book even more personal to me.

You remember I showed you in Proverbs 1, when we started way back in the day, four great concepts about this book.

- Proverbs 1:2 states that the proverbs are given for us to know, and that will be to know God.
- Proverbs 1:3 states that the proverbs were given for us to receive. That will be you and I when you receive the Word of God; you receive it not as the word of man, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which also affects the work when you believe.
- Proverbs 1:4 states that the proverbs, once you know them and once you receive them, then you give them. That will be what we give to others, your daily ministry as you help people through the Word of God.
- Through all of that—to know, to receive, to give—Proverbs 1:6 states that he says to understand. That is really the goal of the Book of Proverbs: to get to the point where we understand God's plan for your life, understand what God is doing, and then actually how we fit into it.

I also told you, if you will remember, that where the Book of Job deals with our sufferings in life and why we go through the things that we go through, the Book of Proverbs shows us the cause and the effect of that suffering. Through understanding what we are going through from the proverbs, that is where you will get your understanding. The two in that respect go hand in hand. The key to our understanding and our spiritual growth will obviously be the Book of Proverbs.

You get the three things that Proverbs provides for us in a protracted way:

1. Knowledge.
2. That knowledge, if you stay with it, turns into wisdom.
3. Then that wisdom, if you continue to stay with it and follow the proverbs, gives you understanding.

This is seeing everything in life, not the way we see it, not the way the world sees it, but being able to see it the way that God sees it.

## II. The Virtuous Woman: A Model of Character

In Proverbs 31, we come to not only the conclusion of the book, but what we should now be for God and what we should be to God through the proverbs of this book and the study that we have seen on the virtuous woman. Our theme verse through all of Proverbs 31 was found in Philippians 1:6, which states:

*Philippians 1:6*

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

What a powerful verse that is! That verse says that God saved us for a reason, that there is a purpose for our existence after we got saved. God just did not save us so we could go to Heaven, though ultimately we are. God has a job for each of us to do. That verse has been the crowning verse that I have used through this great chapter.

In finishing out this book and now seeing what the Book of Proverbs will do for us, we now see in Proverbs 31—and I do not know if you listed them out or not—14 incredible character qualities that we need to have in our lives. Truly, I have said this many, many times, and this is no mystery: character is something that is the missing element in Christianity today. I could sum up your Christian life and my Christian life, and your growth process would simply be building these 14 character qualities that we have in this chapter in our own life.

We saw in Proverbs 31, first of all:

- In Proverbs 31:10, we saw her virtue. I explained what virtue was.
- In Proverbs 31:11, we saw her attitude of heart, and we talked about that.
- In Proverbs 31:13, we saw her willingness to do and be whatever God wanted her to be.
- In Proverbs 31:14, we looked at the food that she has, not only for her family first, but for others also.
- In Proverbs 31:15, we saw the character quality of her humbleness: she has a servant's heart, she wants to do for others, and life is not all about her.
- In Proverbs 31:16, we spent a lot of time on her field that she was willing to buy.
- In Proverbs 31:17, we saw her strength and where that lies: her loins girded about with truth.
- In Proverbs 31:18, we saw her perception: the fact that she perceives things and sees things that others do not see.

- In Proverbs 31:19-20, there was a great layout of her work.
- In Proverbs 31:21, we saw her family, how that because of her understanding and her perception, all her family was saved.
- In Proverbs 31:23-24, we see her examples to others.
- In Proverbs 31:25, we saw her clothing.
- In Proverbs 31:26, we saw her speech.
- In Proverbs 31:27, we saw her bread. We are told that it was not the bread of idleness; she is busy doing with the Word of God what God has saved her for.

Finally, the last thing said about her in Proverbs 31:28-31, I think personally, is the most incredible study that we could probably ever take as far as understanding ourselves. I want to talk to you today out of Proverbs 31:28-31. Let me read it for you.

*Proverbs 31:28*

*Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*

*Proverbs 31:29*

*Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*

*Proverbs 31:30*

*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.*

*Proverbs 31:31*

*Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

### III. The Power of Motherhood Defined

It would obviously be safe to say that Proverbs 31:28 and Proverbs 31:31 would be the desire of every mother. For her children, when they grow up, the word used here is "arise." That is a key word in the Bible, and it always associates itself with somebody raising up under their own power. It is an incredible thing. It would be, as I said, safe to say that most mothers would really want this and desire this of their children once they grow up. I have to tell you, most of the time in families today, this probably very rarely happens. In these last four verses, you will find one of the greatest unknown and hidden truths that if you ever uncover it, it will change the way that you look at everything when it comes to your household.

I must be honest with you today, this message is not what I planned to do when I was thinking about Proverbs 31 and closing it out. My mind works a little differently than most people's. That is because when God was putting brains in people, He sent a guy over to get one off the rack, and he misread the label and gave me one that said, "Abby Normal." So I am a little off base on that. But when I started to do this, God just came down and opened something up. I will be honest with you, I totally had never really seen it before in its entirety. I understood the concepts, but this is something that goes way beyond what I thought. I got so lost in it this week. It showed me

something that—and I have been through the Bible a few times—I had never seen in the Bible before that just stuck out once I started to unravel this verse.

The way I do it, I will think about it. I am done preaching on Sunday morning; Monday is my big day of putting all my things together. But I will think about it all day and read the passage that I want to do before I go to bed at night and just kind of let it shimmer. Then I will get up, and then I will start putting it all together. That is what I did, but I did not intend to go where I went. I can honestly say that God sent this one in from the bench. So if you do not like it, tonight is not quite a full moon, but you could probably still get on a hill somewhere, take all your clothes off, and scream and yell at God through the moon, and you will feel better about it.

For a moment, let me jump ahead and look at a few things before we get into this message about this woman. I want to preach to you today what came out this week. I want to preach today about the power of being a godly mother, the power of motherhood.

Proverbs 31:29 states, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all." The first thing I want you to see about this woman is that she is a rarity. She is the best of the best in the world, in churches, in any group of ladies. She will stand head and shoulders above the normal woman, and you do not find that very often today. These 14 character qualities that I gave you, she has them. This is what actually sets her apart from everybody else in our text here. This woman, she sees what others cannot see. Because of that, she does things that other women will not do. She never seems to, in the chapter, lose her focus. She certainly, from the chapter, stands as a guiding light to those around her. She seems to never allow the circumstances around her to cause her to lose sight of the big picture of what God is doing. From this, it is obvious that she is someone who solves problems and does not cause problems because she can see things through a perception that most people cannot see.

The key to all of this is found in Proverbs 31:30, which states:

*Proverbs 31:30*

*Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.*

Her real beauty is not on the outward appearance. The real beauty is on an inward appearance, and that is what you look for. I am not saying you have to be an ugly woman to be godly. I am saying the inside needs to be much more taken care of than the outside. It is true of all of this. Nobody is here right now looking the way you look when you first got up this morning. You are just not. It is a thing where you worked at the way you look today, and honestly, I appreciate that. So do the people sitting around you. Josh, I probably think you look the same right now, this moment, as you did when you got up this morning. I just got that feeling that nothing much has changed about you other than I do not know if you slept in those clothes last night; it kind of looks like you did, but it is okay. You are good no matter what.

This woman is the woman of 1 Peter 3:3-4, which states:

*1 Peter 3:3*

*Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;*

*1 Peter 3:4*

*But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*

This woman does not put more emphasis on how she looks on the outside. A lot of women do, and I am not fighting that. Please do not misunderstand me; I think that you want to look good, and you should look good. As old Bob Jones Sr. used to say, "If the barn door needs paint, go ahead and paint it." I understand all that. But what I am saying is most people spend so much time getting the outside ready to go to church. The real question this morning is, what does the inside look like? That is the question. Her adorning is not outward.

There are some churches, and they are usually on a charismatic side, where the women do not wear makeup. Their hair looks like they just got done with the North wind. It is a thing where they do not wear jewelry and it is all stuff. I am not talking about that. There is nothing wrong with painting yourself, putting your eyebrow stuff on, or whatever you do. I do not know. And putting jewelry on, there is nothing wrong with that. Do not misunderstand me. But the real adorning of a mother, a Christian, has to be inward. The hidden man of her heart is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is our connection back to the Book of Proverbs. 1 Peter 3:4 says that in the sight of God, she is of great price. In Proverbs 31:10, we saw that "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." There she is. You run the two back together. You will find this woman in Song of Solomon 1:6. You will find this woman in 1 Peter 2:4, where it talks about living stones. You will certainly find her in Matthew 13:46, where she is called the pearl of great price. In Song of Solomon 5:6, when it is talking about Christ and we are to be like Christ, the Bible says that He is "altogether lovely." Everything about us should be lovely to the Lord Jesus Christ on the inside.

Doctrinally, I get it. This woman in Proverbs 31 is a picture of the nation of Israel and the church. Historically, she was a real woman that Solomon had found out of a thousand, and we have been through all that. Then he writes about her. Inspirationally, my message today will be centered on one of the greatest studies in all of the Bible that is laid out in Proverbs 31 from an inspirational application: the final product and the relationship of the power of being a godly mother.

This is not Mother's Day; I get it. This would not be a good Mother's Day message anyhow. Mother's Day messages, you will want to say stuff that maybe is not even true. So this would not be a good one because I am just going to tell you stuff that is true. I feel like I have been in this business for a long time now, almost 50 years, maybe this is 50; I cannot forget. It is a thing where I feel like that guy on the insurance company commercial, that older guy where he is trying to help the guy out and he says, "We know a thing or two because we have seen a thing or

two." I know a thing or two because let me tell you something: in almost 50 years, I have seen a thing or two.

I am telling you, in Proverbs 31, when I was coming down through here, this is the first thing that hit me. This is what got me going in the direction; it just kind of popped out of nowhere. The first thing I want to draw your attention to is the fact that in this chapter, there is no real mention of the father other than down at the gate someplace, and he rises up. In fact, Proverbs 31:1 states:

*Proverbs 31:1*

*The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.*

I saw that. I thought to myself, "Wow, that is something I need to look a little farther into this thing." I want to preach to you this morning out of this Proverbs 31 about a godly mother.

I know in the Bible, there is a role of the father and there is a role of the mother. I get that; I understand that. I understand both roles and how that, I get it, the father leads the family and he sets the biblical guidelines. There is no question about that. He is ultimately the father responsible for the family as far as their spiritual needs, their physical needs, and their emotional needs. In Genesis 2:18, there was a great concept about the woman that God gave Adam. The Bible calls her a "help meet," not a "help mate." Animals have mates, I have told you this before, but human beings, Christians, have meets. When you got a wife, you did not get a mate; you are supposed to get a meet: somebody to help you meet what God has given you as a family to do.

Her role with the family is, without a doubt, from Proverbs 31, very key to the whole family. What it takes, even though I am just going to speak on Proverbs 31 and the role of the mother here from an inspirational standpoint, it actually takes both roles working together. You do not find this very often today. Where the father lays down the principles of life and leads the family through it, do not kid yourself, it is the mother who is the glue that keeps it all together. In those early years when Dad is working and he is doing this and he is doing that, and Mom is with those kids, you see the impact that a godly mother has and how important it is for her to have these 14 qualities in her life.

I want to talk to you about the power of being a mother and the power of being a good mother, but also the power of being a bad mother. Because the issue today with the family will go right back to here and these two roles meshing together and complementing each other. Again, I cannot overemphasize that help meet concept of Genesis 2:18.

I got this this week; I never thought about this. You take the term "mother." Do you know where that is defined in the Bible for us? Some place that you never think that it was. I know you can come through and find reference to a thousand mothers in the Bible, but you want to know the definitive on it? It is tucked away some place that you never think about it being the definitive of the word mother. Do you know where it is? It is in Revelation 17:5. Revelation 17:5 is telling about:

*Revelation 17:5*

*And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

Do you know what that tells me? I know that that is the Roman Catholic Church, and I know that the Babylon mystery and all that stuff; I get that. But do you know what it tells me? It tells me that every false religion on this planet started with Babylon, and Babylon is the mother. She gave birth; she is the mother to all the false religions. Do you know what that tells me? That tells me that as a mother, you not only give life by bringing life into this world through your children, you are the beginning of the sustaining of that life. It starts with you.

Then my mind got going. I remember in the Gulf War in 1990—most of you do not even remember this—we were fighting Saddam Hussein. Remember him? What did he say before we got in a battle? Later on, Schwarzkopf kicked his rear end all over Baghdad. But what did he get up there and say? He said, "We are going to fight a battle that is going to be the mother of all battles." Do you know what he was saying? This battle here is going to start something that is going to reach out to the world. The term "mother" defined in the Bible is where things start. She not only gives life, but then she sustains life in those early years. Those 14 character qualities are what she infuses in her children, and it starts with her. Her husband, he lays it down, he leads the way. But brother, she is the glue that holds it all together. We go into mining and we say, "Oh man, we hit the mother lode!" Do you know what that means? That means you hit the main vein from which all your riches now are going to come from. The word "mother" in the Bible is an interesting phrase. It is quite incredible.

#### IV. The Destructive Impact of Ungodly Motherhood

In my years over the years, I really have seen some excellent mothers. I really have. Yet I must tell you, I have really seen some terrible ones. I also understand the impact of not only what a good mother has on her family, based on our understanding the definition now of a mother, but I also understand the impact of a bad mother on her household. Today, if you are listening to me out there, and upstairs, or downstairs, or here, or wherever you are listening to this down the line someplace, you found it. Let me ask you, here is the real question: when your children arise, when they grow up, what will they call you? I want you to think about that as we kind of walk through this thing here and put some things together.

As I said, over the years, I have seen some terrible, tragic examples of a mother that have destroyed families. You would obviously see it with the father first, but I am talking about moms today, and I want to give you some insight into some things based on Proverbs 31 and based on your role, your role as a mother. Forget about the father for a moment; we will get him later.

I have learned this too: no matter how much you lay the Word of God out, and we do here, every time we come, we try to give you everything that we can. No matter how much Bible you give people, people many times are simply not going to get it and not do anything with it. That is just the way it goes. When I come to looking at motherhood, their failure to be the counterpart, to be the right beginning in their children's life. I have seen over the years the absolute destructive

damage; it is unbelievable. Yet at the same time, I have seen the mom just scratch her head and say, "I wonder what happened." Well, I am going to tell you what happened this morning.

The saddest part of my ministry is seeing the destruction of children simply because of the moms who will not understand and do their role. I have had kids that came to church here, that came to camp, that they really got fired up at camp and really wanted to do what is right. But Mom wanted nothing to do with that. She wanted nothing to do for them. The one little guy said, "I have to get up at 5:30 before my mom ever gets up and get into my Bible, because if she sees me in my Bible, she is going to give me all kinds of trouble over it." Imagine that. Imagine that. Yet we lost that one; you usually do. The kid hung on as long as he could, came as much as he could, but you do not see him around anymore. She won. It is not so much that she won, as I want to talk to you about the power that you have as a mother to either make them what God wants them to be or destroy them.

Listen, I have horror stories that I could tell you. Over the years, I have seen a mother get divorced when she was 30 or 35. She still thinks she is the hottest thing on the planet. She is trying to regain something that she thinks she lost. So do you know what she does? She shacks up with an 18 or 19-year-old boy. She flaunts it around in public like it is the thing to do. Many times, there will be two or three kids in the family that are 12, 13, or 14 who see that and have to deal not only with a terrible example. I talked to them; they talked to them. They have come in and said, "My kids at school make fun of me because of my mother. They call her a cougar. They call her a whore." Let me tell you something, I bet your parents' night at school was an interesting time. She is the poster child for Proverbs 30:20, which states:

*Proverbs 30:20*

*Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.*

Then she wonders why her kids, when they rise and grow up, cannot have a normal relationship with a guy or a gal. Their mind is so skewed because of what the example, the mother, was: her indifference to biblical principles, her flaunting her sin like, "Hey, this is the thing for me to do." "What is wrong with you for not accepting this?" She will never figure it out that her terrible example destroyed those kids. She will never figure out the power that we have as a mother.

I have seen them and dealt with their kids. Where they are married and they will have a couple of kids or one kid or whatever, and then they will get a divorce. I have seen that little kid when they are 10, 12, 13, or 14. One girl told me one time, she says all that she can remember growing up is the one-night stands that her mom brought in every weekend, guy after guy after guy. Mom cared nothing about the girl seeing this. Mom cared nothing about the boy seeing this. Mom cared nothing about what she was doing and the impact that was having on the kid. That little girl told me, "You know what? All I can remember as a kid growing up is Mom's one-night stands or the people, the guy she would pick up at her favorite watering hole, and she would bring them, and I would have to stay in my room." Once they were done with my mother, when she was asleep, some of them even tried to come in and molest me. When I told my mother about it, my mother called me a liar and defended them. So she locked herself in her room every night, fearing one of

her mother's men. That poor girl turned out to be a hopeless case of having any real meaningful relationship with anybody. Her mom destroyed that. Her mom completely destroyed any normalcy of having a relationship. That is all that kid saw.

I had another case. Do not tell me, pal, you do not talk about this, but I have seen it all, man. I have seen the same basic scenario, except the girl at 18 could not take it anymore. He found her committed suicide in her bedroom one weekend. The real question is, what will your children rise up and call you? "Mother of the Year"?

I have seen mothers run the family completely. Oh boy, have I ever. Dad is a wimp. I do not know what else to say. He is a weak person. He may be the nicest guy on the planet; most of the time they are. But I will tell you what, he stands by while Mom takes the reins. If you would ask him, "Oh yeah, he leads the family. Yeah, he always has the last say." You say, "Shut up," and he says, "Yes, dear." You always get it. He says, "Honey, when I want your opinion, I will give it to you." She runs everything; she runs the show.

I have seen the boys in such a situation like that grow up and have absolutely no respect for women. I have seen them use women. I have seen them degrade women. I have seen them get married and divorced multiple times because they do not have the ability, because of the skewed relationship that was messed up and so absolutely out of balance. They usually wind up having the morals of an alley cat. I have seen them have one illegitimate kid after the other where marriage was not even in the cards. When the baby was illegitimate and the woman found out, the mom found out that her son had gotten some girl pregnant, it was like, "Wow, this is a great thing! I am going to be a grandma!" Are you kidding me? It is an unbroken chain. I will tell you right now, 100% of the time, Mom's response to it, if you would talk to her, it is always somebody else's fault. "My little baby boy will not do anything wrong. He is a really good kid. He is a really nice guy. He is a good father." He does not get much of the Bible down, but he got that verse that said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." When the boy got two or three girls pregnant, the mother told me—I said, "What is going on?"—she knew what she said. She said it was the girl's fault for not being on birth control. "Mother of the Year" material. The boys were never at fault, and they turned out to be the biggest disasters you ever saw in your life. A woman like that turns out to be one of all you can do. You cannot fix it in all my years. I have never seen a scenario like that ever get fixed; all you can do is get out of the way. She makes the Wizard of Oz, the Wicked Witch of the West, look like a Sunday school teacher. I have seen it over the years: always a disaster and always somebody else's fault. When you try to hold them accountable, do not even try.

I guess, oh, I have seen it, man. I am going to get to some good ones here in a minute; it does not take me long because there are not many. But I guess the most common one will be the mother who just stands by and lets a deadbeat husband destroy the family. I see this one all the time; I guess it is the number one on the hit list. I tell women all the time, if you are in a dead-end marriage and your husband is destroying your kids, whether he is saved or lost, because it happens in both cases. He may be out drinking with the boys and partying with the boys and cares nothing about those kids that are in their formidable years. Or he may be home and he is just an absolute spiritual zero when they are in the most crucial years of their life. He lets you do

it all. He is making every bad, stupid decision that he can make. He is quitting his job. He is going from this job to that job. He is unstable. He is as worthless as a spiritual leader as he can be, and he treats you like dirt. Do not tell me; they have sat in my office, tears running down their face, saying, "He treats me like dirt." He will say, "I do not love you," and he is running around with all of his buddies. He will say this, "You know what? I will love you if you lose some weight."

I am just telling you, ladies, the power of a mother, the power of a woman. I am not in black power; I am in woman power. Black lives matter. Women's lives matter. Listen, you do not have to let that happen to your kids and let them be destroyed. I tell them all the time, you do not understand the power that you have as a woman to be destroyed. As a woman in a situation like that, you completely have the upper hand. You do not have to let that happen. You do not have to lose your kids. You can completely, biblically, control the situation. As a wife and as a mother, you have the power to deal with that and save your family. But you will not. You will not because you are weak. You will not because you are wishy-washy. You will not because you are dysfunctional yourself.

It is like the wife-beating concept. I tell women all the time, she said, "My husband, my husband, my husband smacks me around. He has done it all our marriage." I look at her like, "Do you not?" And, "I do not know what to do." "What do you mean you do not know what to do?" You want to fix that one time? Put him in jail. Do not just call the police. When they show up saying, "Well, I do not want to call him off to jail," put him in jail, go to court, let his employer know it, let his friends know it. Let everybody know what a goofball he is. Well, you know what? You will not do it. "Well, I love him." What does that have to do with it? If you love him, hold him accountable. I love you guys to death, but I do not let you slip and slide. If you hit me, I am going to take you to court and put you in jail. It is the same concept, but you know what? You cannot take, they cannot take a stand for anything. You cannot take a stand for yourself, and what the tragedy is, you cannot take your stand for your kids.

Oh, I get it. You will whine and complain about it. Oh, you will. They have sat in my office, tears. "I do not know what to do." "What do you mean you do not know what to do?" You have the power as a godly mother not to put up with that. There are some things you can do to fix that, but you will not do it. Do you know why? Because you have no self-discipline. You will not stand up for your kids to do the right thing. You have no courage. So what you do is just play the victim. That is what you do; you play the victim. Oh, woe is me. You like to play possum. I just say that because that is fresh in my mind that I ran over one last night coming home. You just think to play possum. You just like to be the victim in all of this. I am telling you, and I say it all the time, kids always pay the price. In time, when your kids rise up, they have absolutely no respect for you; they want nothing to do with you. You actually stand there and scratch your head and ask yourself why. It is because you allowed some 250-pound couch potato to be the worst example that they could ever have. You, by doing nothing, have now turned them against you. Most of the time they go right out into the world because you have lost any real influence in their life, because they do not respect you. When they rise up, what are they going to call you? You allow that jerk of a husband to provoke them, to be a terrible example, to bully them, to put

completely unreasonable demands on them. You allowed him to belittle them, the man they follow, his stupid leadership. You, "Mother of the Year," just stood by and whined about it all. But you are such a weak, cowardly, undisciplined, dysfunctional person. You just let it all happen, and it destroyed your kids. Here is the real problem: you are as worthless as a Christian as you are as a mother.

I have had them. I could put a thousand people with Bible in your world, and you never still make it. Do you know why? The problem is, no matter how many people with Bibles get in your world, the problem is you really do not want to do what you need to do other than whine about it. Listen to me. Your Bible is not God's Word. Here it comes. Your Bible is not God's Word. Your Bible is a social media of Facebook. Listen to me. Oh yeah, man, here it comes. That is where you take your issues. That is where you post your little grievances. That is what you talk about: who you like and who you do not like. That is where you fall into discord with other worthless people like yourself. Birds of a feather flock together. Then, oh, it is in there where the injustices that you feel, the fact that you are all alone and you have no friends, and "What am I going to do?" and "What was this and what was that?" and "This person does not like me," and "I do not like this," and "I do not like that." By doing so, posted for the world to see every day, 24/7, you reveal and expose how stupid and shallow you really are.

Let me just say this. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having a grievance. There is nothing wrong with having issues with people; we all do. Or you have something that you do not like or you feel strongly about; I get that. But may I suggest—and again, I apologize this morning, I am sorry to keep going back to the Bible, so I apologize to you for staying scriptural with this—but I just have to ask you, may I suggest instead of posting that all on the public media for this, that you get on your knees and take those grievances to the only One that can fix them? May I suggest that you get off of Facebook and seek His face in His Book? May I suggest that you take what you do not like to somebody who can fix it, and on your knees instead of before the unsaved world? That is where you lay out your petitions. That is where you lay out your grievances. That is where you lay out what you do not like. I have never understood in all my life people going and talking with people about things, the people that those people cannot fix for you. Do you know why you do that? Because you really do not want to fix them. Because if you did, you would stay off of Facebook and get in God's Book on your knees, bringing your petitions before Almighty God. I have never understood it. I have never understood it.

On social media, you parade your problems. You parade how unspiritual you are. You parade how you do not take your issues before God. You bring them with the other dysfunctional people. You display your stupidity like you are at the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Parade. All the issues you should have brought to God, you bring to the social media of the world to put it on display. I want to tell you, I do not care what your problems are. I do not care what your issues are. I do not care whether it is legit or not legit. You may think it is legit to you, and I am with you on that. I have no problem with whatever you feel because we are all human, and we all have feelings. But there is a process by which you deal with that as a Christian. In ministry, there is a chain of command.

In my life, I have done a lot of dumb things. But in my life, there are three things that I thank God every day dealing with people that God never allowed me to get into. One of them, I never drank. I know some of you have struggled with that, and maybe you still do, and alcohol can be a stronghold in your life. I just never had that. I think it tastes terrible. I am not going to stand here and tell you that I did not taste it; I did. I hated it; it did nothing for me. I used to, when I was in the Army, I would go to the PX with the guys that all have a Friday night beer drinking thing. I was the only guy that could make one can of beer last all night because I never drank it. Then I would excuse myself and go to the restroom and pour it out and come back and say, "Man, give me another one." I never drank it; I hated the taste of it. Maybe you have to develop a taste for it; I do not know. But to me, what is that? I will tell you something else: I never smoked. Yet I faked it a lot of times because you went in with the guys, you want to go in the guy back in the Army. They say, "Everybody who was a man smoked." I always loved, I always stood in awe of how you can take it in here, and then it comes out your nose. To me, that is an amazing feat. The smoke goes in here and you hold it in there for a while, and the next thing you know, it is coming out your nose. To me, that is incredible. That is like the guy when his, when your car is broke, he opens the hood and says, "Got a screwdriver?" And you say, "Yeah." And he sticks it down there someplace, and the car starts. That is impressive. I wish I could do that. I tried it one time, blew up the whole screwdriver. I do not know what I taught, but I am telling you, I tried it one time, but I was by myself in the Army years ago, and I took it in, and somebody said, "You just swallow it, swallow smoke." It goes down and it comes out your nose. I swallowed it; it did not come out my nose. I coughed and puked and choked. I will tell you what, man. But I thank God that I never smoked marijuana, never got into drugs. I never did. I had a lot of guys that did, a lot of friends that did, and I just never did. I realized, I guess I was born. I realized that years ago, before most of you were born, they did not call it marijuana. They did not call it this or that; they just called it "dope" because you had to be a dope to do it. So I just never got into it; so I thank God for those two things.

But the third thing that I thank God that I never got into was Facebook or social media. I know nothing about them. You say, "Well, you talk a lot about it because you guys keep sending me screenshots of some idiot." Do not miss it. I like it; I do. I look at them and I laugh; I do. I get some guy down there at the Royals' game holding up a beer, who is a Christian. You get some kid on Facebook putting a thing about how they smoke marijuana and bragging about it. That is great preaching material, man.

If I can be honest, there are times in dealing with people that you could probably get me to go have a drink with you. There are times that I think about those little fruity drinks in those coconuts with little umbrellas out of them, slurping on one of them to forget you. I might even, if I thought it would solve all of our problems, I would smoke a joint with you. But there is not how bad and goofy you can be. There is not how worthless you can be or how problematic you can be that ever forced me to get on Facebook.

I have to clarify this because I know some of you are on it. The last thing I want to go out of here is having you think that I am against Facebook. I do not know how you would even get that from my message today. Let me tell you something, nobody uses the internet more than I do. I do not

even use my concordance anymore. If I am looking for a verse, I can just type it in, and it will give up the verse. It is incredible stuff you can get on there. It is incredible the stuff that you can learn on there. Any subject that you want. I will be watching a TV program, and they will make a reference to something, and I will pause it and go over and Google it, and there comes all the information I want on everything. It is incredible stuff. But it is like everything in life: there is a good side to it, and there is a bad side to it. The problem is that if you have the self-discipline to do what you need to do, and you have got the character qualities, then it is a good thing for you. I am not, I know I crack on Facebook, but you want to put your kids' pictures on there. You want to put your vacation on there. I get it. You know what? But you realize that a lot of God's people put some of the most godless stuff on there that you ever saw in your life. How stupid are you? You do not come to church. You tell me, "Well, we did not feel well," or "I am really busy at work," but you post on Facebook, "You are down at the lake." That has to be related to Nancy Pelosi getting her hair done and thinking she got set up. Come on. You, "Well, they set me up." Really? You remind me of a bank robber one time who went in and robbed the bank, and they had him on a security camera and got a clear picture of his face and went and arrested him. He said, "That ain't fair! You set me up! You had a camera!" I get it. But I am telling you, some of the stuff that you, God's people, put on there, some of the things you say, it is no wonder that the unsaved world wants nothing to do with Christianity. If that is your character quality and that is what you are, and you are on there saying one thing, and then you are down at the lake holding a beer down there, smiling while you are water skiing. If you look real close in the background, there is a 30-foot shark coming after you. Even he did not want to eat you. People do the dumbest things, man. You know what? If you really are seeking God's face, that is all the face you need. You do not need this other stuff. If you want to put your vacation pictures on it, if you want to put your kids on it, your dogs on it, I am all for that. If you have the self-discipline to use it, it is okay. The problem is most of God's people, most mothers, do not have that. So it winds up being a garbage dump for everybody to read and see. For the undisciplined and the unstructured and the unspiritual, it becomes a stronghold in their life of discord and gossip. The tragedy is your kids see it. They watch you post those things, and then you allow them to post on it. Next thing you know, they are on there smoking a joint and telling everybody how they are a Christian and it is okay to do this. If you are Facebook versus seeking God in His Facebook, and I hate cracking on this because there is a lot of it. It is okay, and you know what I am talking about. But they have these things now on your phone. I have one; I found it. Do not look at me like that; I found it. It is a telescopic thing that you pull out. It is a telescopic thing that you pull out, and you put your iPhone in it. They call them "selfies." I am not against selfies. I have never taken a selfie on my phone. I have Daisy; she is laying there looking up at me. That is the picture I have. I am not fighting it, but you know what? You are so busy. We are so busy taking a selfie of how we look. You want a real selfie? Get in the Book of Proverbs 31 and take a picture of you there.

Power of a mother. I have seen it; moms like this always. They never have the 14 character qualities. They have no ministry. They have no work with their hands. They have no making of clothes for the family. They have no field that they bought. There is no service to others. There is no sacrifice. There is no character. There is no strength. There is no self-discipline. There is no

courage and no honor. Somebody else has to make the clothes, spiritually speaking, for their kids. When their kids rise up, what do they call you?

Sometimes over the years, it is more like a rescue mission to me. You try to save, help one or two of the kids. Not very often. But I found this out over the years: if you do and you get one, you get them in spite of the mother, not because of it. Over the years, I have seen that they usually are very special kids. God has something for them. God gives somebody else the privilege to help them. It is a tragedy. I think I have had to deal with a lot of custody cases and deal with people in court, and mothers who were terrible. Sometimes I have seen over the years that the courts actually take the kids away from the mother because they deem the mothers unfit to be the parent for that. That is always a tough time. Yet I have to tell you, I have seen some that actually turned it around. In time, they made a difference. But it is even more of a tragic thing to me that for any Christian family, for God to have to come down and remove a child out of your family spiritually and give them to somebody else to make sure they get the Bible that they need because you are simply not doing it. You have to be ashamed of yourself. Try that selfie; see how it looks on you.

Power of being a mother. It all begins with her; she gives life and she sustains life. She is the glue. It may be the Dad who has to lead the way and has to be everything that he does. But at the end of the day, it is the mother who holds it all together.

## V. Biblical Examples of Godly Motherhood

The Bible says that her children will rise up and call her blessed. Just for a moment, let us see the other side of this. Just as I have seen some horrible examples of a mother, I have seen some incredibly good ones. If you think that I just kind of put all that together and made all that up, allow me in the next, oh, I do not know, five or 10 minutes, to again show you how stupid you really are. In fact, you embrace stupidity like it was a virtue.

Watch this. I am going to go right back to the Bible again. Watch this. I did not see this before this last week. Let us take just a quick walk through the Bible based on our text in the ending of Proverbs 31, talking about the power of being a biblical mother. Are you ready? Here we go.

That is all the way back to Moses. Moses was the greatest leader that Israel ever had, more written about Moses than any other man in the Bible outside of Christ. He writes the first five books of the Bible. But have you ever noticed that it was his mother? Not one mention of his father. It was his mother who saw he was a proper child. It was his mother who refused to turn him over to Pharaoh and the world. It was his mother who came up with the idea of faith to make a little basket, to put that little baby Moses in, and then put him in the Nile along there by the bullrushes, so Pharaoh would not kill him. It was not the Dad; the Dad is not even mentioned. It was the mother. What happened? You know the story. She puts him in a little basket, which makes Moses the first "basket case" in the Bible. She puts him in a little basket, puts him out there in the Nile, and then she stands and watches: her eye of protection. Even though she was not going to give her child to the world, she was going to put him in God's care. She still has that motherly eye of protection. What happens? Pharaoh's daughter comes down to take a bath. God pinches the little baby Moses so he starts to cry. She walks over and she says, "Oh, a baby! I am

going to take this baby. I wanted a baby. I am going to take this baby." So she takes the baby, takes it back to the palace. I am sure Moses' mother, who did all the right things, went home pretty sad right up until the phone rang. It was Pharaoh's daughter saying, "Would you come and nurse this child for me that I found?" By that story, by that godly mother, with all the character qualities, without the husband even being mentioned—because it starts with the mother—we learned one of the greatest principles in your life, in my life, all about that story of a godly mother. Do you know what the principle is? "If you want to keep it, you have to give it away." Wow.

Let us walk on. 1 Samuel 2. Little Samuel and his mother, Hannah. Here is somebody that she wants a baby. The Bible says she is barren, and the Bible says she is bitter in her soul. Sounds like Facebook material to me. Sounds like, "Hannah, get on Facebook, my face, in your face, whatever space you can get, outer space, and lay out your grievance." She went to God with it. How long will it take for you to figure out that God is the only One who can fix whatever issues you really have? She gave Israel the greatest prophet and judge that Israel probably ever had. But her husband is barely noted. It was her who took him to Eli the priest. It is her that makes his little suit of clothes, Proverbs 31. It is her whom the Bible says in 1 Samuel 1:28:

*1 Samuel 1:28*

*Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.*

Not her husband. It is her who sees in young Samuel what God sees. Her husband is not even wholly mentioned. In 1 Samuel 2:35, you find the five character qualities that we need to have in our kids, you need to have in your life. She had them in hers first, and then she put them in little Samuel.

4. Being a faithful priest.
5. Getting God's heart.
6. Getting God's mind.
7. Building a sure house.
8. Walking before Him.

He does not even know what to do. The father, as wholly even mentioned in this story, had nothing to do with it.

I will go to the next one. Let us move on a little bit here. How about 2 Kings 4, the Shunammite woman. She is called a great woman. There are two women called great in the Bible: one in the Old Testament, one in the New Testament. That is because one of the Old Testament's pictures is of the nation of Israel, and one in the New Testament is the picture of the church, but we do not have time to get into that this morning. She recognizes who the prophet of God is, and she builds a little study place for him. Here again, the husband is only briefly mentioned. The son dies. She goes to her husband and she says, "Look, the man—I am paraphrasing now—the man of God, we need to get him to the man of God. Get one of the servants, saddle an ass, and get him to get the prophet of God." Do you know what the husband does? He does the same thing that most

husbands do: he makes excuses; he looks for a reason not to do it. Do you know what she did? She did it herself. She did not allow an indifferent husband to keep her boy dead. So she saddled him the ass. I am not sure if that is her husband or the donkey she rode. But she saddles the ass, and she goes and gets the prophet to her dead son. Mom, you have the power to get the man of God to your child in spite of a husband that says, "I just do not think we need to do that." What she does, the little chamber that she makes, she puts four things in it. What insight does she have? She puts a bed, she puts a table, she puts a stool, and she puts a candlestick. The four character qualities that we need to have in our lives that she wanted in her life that she put in her boy's life. The bed, that will teach us to rest in Christ. The table, that will be a reference to our fellowship in Christ. The stool, that will be a reference to our studying the Word of God. The candlestick, that is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God that puts it all together. She is a great woman. But she was not going to let an indifferent husband keep the man of God from getting to her child.

Wow, I did not even have time to get into all the ones in 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles where the kings of Israel start to reign very young. You find them when they are eight years old, you find them when they are 20 years old, and every one of them says the same thing. It tells you that he came to power and he reigned. But it was his mother that reigned with him. Father is not even mentioned.

How about Mary, the mother of Jesus? Luke 1:26-37. The angel Gabriel shows up to declare that Jesus is coming through her, and he goes into great detail in Luke 1:31-35. Joseph is not even mentioned; he is not even in the picture. All that she got from Gabriel, all that God told her—oh, how many times I have used this in my life. She set one of the greatest examples of a godly mother. Do you know what she does? Luke 2:19 states:

*Luke 2:19*

*But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

What do you ponder in your heart about your kids? Do you look at them while they are out there playing sports or they are out there sitting in the room, and do you silently pray for them? Do you look at them out there and you wonder how they are really doing? Are they really doing okay? Most parents make a terrible mistake: they think their kids can do no wrong. That is a very terrible thing, but it happens all the time. But what do you see when you see them? Do you just look at them and ponder them in your heart? Is it more about them than it is about you? Do you spend more time with the inward man than you do the outward appearance?

Then we have the second great woman. Keep on walking. We have the second great woman in Matthew 15, and I saw none of this. I have been through these passages; I never caught this until this week. You have the second great woman found in Matthew 15:21-28. By the way, she is a black woman. She is from Canaan; she is a Canaanite. She comes to Jesus with a daughter that is vexed with a devil. No husband. She comes to Jesus and goes through three brutal, indifferent rejections from Christ. Jesus, Lover of my soul, not on that day. He cares upon you, not on that day. She comes to Him the first time: flat refusal. Comes the second time: "Hit the road." Comes the third time. She gets rejected every time.

There is some good material for Facebook. "I went to church and did not get what I thought I should. I am going to find another church, please, please, please, please." Please, do not promise me things like that if you are not going to do it. Not if you are not going to do it. No, that is the material. "I went to church, did not get what I needed. I am going to find another church. I went to the person, and they did not tell me what I wanted to hear. I am going to find something." No, no, no, do you know what she did? Three times, by the Lord Himself. Do you know what she did? She stayed right with it. She never got an attitude. She never stepped outside the guidelines. She followed the chain of command. You did not see her calling up all her other girlfriends on the phone and complaining about what Jesus did not do for her. See, this is why she is a great woman, and you are not. Would that fit in good? I did not even think about that. That just slipped out for even a thing. I am sorry about that. She is a great woman. That story is the greatest picture of what our prayer life should be found anywhere in the Bible. From this story of this great woman who had all the character qualities, her husband is not even, he is not even mentioned. There are no male figures at all in most of these because it is the mother who is the glue. When push comes to shove, I am going to tell you something. When you get out in combat someplace like D-Day or in Vietnam or whatever the case, and it hits the fan, and guys are dying, and some guy is laying over here with his intestines blown out over the thing, and he is screaming and he is trying to stick them back in. Do you know what they cry out? "Mother! Mother! Mother!" Never Dad. Never Dad. Mothers have an impact in a child's life that is unbelievable. You have the power to protect your children from everything out there that wants to destroy them, even your deadbeat husband. But you will not do it. These women did; they did not care. She sets up five things for us in this story that makes her a great woman when it comes to seeing things the way they really are through God's Book, not Facebook.

9. She has the right perspective.
10. She has the right purpose.
11. She has the right persistence.
12. She has the right position because she has the right promises.

How about 2 Timothy 1:6, young Timothy, model for every Christian, model for every pastor. When Paul said to him, do you know what he said in 2 Timothy 1:6?

*2 Timothy 1:5*

*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

*2 Timothy 1:6*

*Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

No mention of the father anywhere. I want to tell you something else, not only is it important to have a good mother and a father, but you had better go back and look from here, he says, the grandparents. How is that working for you? Notice the key to Timothy getting into the ministry was the unfeigned faith. Do you know what unfeigned is? It is not phony. First in thy

grandmother and also in your mother. No father, 100,000 miles around. The importance of godly grandparents in a kid's life. Timothy is the model; he is the model of every Christian, of every pastor. The gift that was in him of being a pastor started with his mother and his grandmother. Do you know why? Because the mother is the beginning of everything. She is the beginning of life, and she sustains that life. The power of a godly mother is unbelievable.

## VI. The Enduring Legacy of a Godly Mother

What do you do with all that? The role of a godly mother is so vital in a child's life. She is the foundational force that in the early years holds it all together. When the husband is a jerk, when your Boaz turns out to be a dumb ass, when your Boaz turns out to be a lazy ass, when your Boaz turns out to be a jerk ass, you have the power, you have the ability through the Scriptures to protect your children because you are the mother of all things. When God gave Adam his wife back there, God called her name Eve. Do you know why He called her name Eve? Because Eve means "the mother of all living." That is what a woman is. It is the beginning.

A godly mother has virtue, willingness in her heart to God, grace; she works hard, she has structure, she has discipline, she has all the 14 character qualities found in our virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. Accountable to her husband, absolutely. But they need to be accountable; he needs to be accountable to her. Before you get off on your male chauvinist horse and ride off into the sunset, you had better read Ephesians 5:21, which states:

*Ephesians 5:21*

*Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

She does not waste her time on Facebook; she spends her time seeking God's face in His Book. She is like Moses in Exodus 33:11, where the Bible says that:

*Exodus 33:11*

*And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.*

You wonder why you have no good friends, you wonder why you whine and complain because nobody likes you or you do not have anybody or nobody wants to do anything with you; that is because you are not God's friend. You have the worst friends on the planet, and they are all where you are at. It is like Moses in Exodus 34:35; he was up on a mountain when he was with God, he came down. Do you know what the Bible says?

*Exodus 34:35*

*And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*

Do you know what your fundamental problem is, Mom? Your face does not shine. Proverbs 31:31 states:

*Proverbs 31:31*

*Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

Do you know what that is a reference to? The fruit of her hands. Notice it did not say the fruit of her womb. You did see that, right? It said the fruit of her hand. She may have given birth to them, but it was those hands that sustained them. Her children who will rise up and call her blessed. Where is the fruit of your hands today? The Bible says that they praise her in the gates. That is a reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ.

How tragic it is, and I have seen it. I wish that it was not so. I wish that God's people would do what is right with the Word of God. I wish that moms would understand their role. I wish that dads would understand their roles. I wish that the two would mesh together. Yet, I am telling you, it is a thing where it just turns into a disaster. How tragic it is for God to take that fruit of your hands that you destroyed and give them to somebody else to keep them from ending life like the rest of your family or, more importantly, like you. Oh, may God give you the time to rethink your godless position of how you lost your kids.

Yet, there is always something you can do. In God's world, it is never too late to fix something that is broken. In Joel 2:25, there is one of the greatest promises that you will ever find. I am certain that you have never read it. I use it all the time in dealing with parents to try to regain their kids. It is found in Joel 2:25 where it states God speaking to the nation of Israel:

*Joel 2:25*

*And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.*

In life, with every bad decision we make, with every tragedy that happens, the worms come in and destroy the fruit that God has for you. The thing that you want to keep the locust out and the cankerworm and the caterpillar out is out of your kids. Unfortunately, it happens, and this is one of the greatest promises in the Bible. Noticeably, he does not say that he will just restore you. He told you and promised you he would restore the years you lost. Ephesians 5:16 hints at this again where he says:

*Ephesians 5:16*

*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Restoring the lost years. But there is a process to do that. You do not find it on Facebook. You do not find it with the people you hang out with. You do not find it in your backbiting, gossiping, discord, mind world that you live in. You find it in God's Book on your knees and getting the things of God in your life and what, five or six steps, that you have to take. But the truth of the matter is, and unfortunately the reality is, you will never do that. Because you will not change. The same lack of character qualities that made the mess you are in will be the same ones that will keep you from fixing that mess.

Yet I want to say to you, I have worked over the years with many families and parents over the years who have turned it around. Not many. But I have seen, and have in my world, men and women who recognize what they have done wrong and actually try to turn it around. I have,

without a doubt, I can say this, the deepest respect for others, for those who turn it around. Yet at the same time, I have seen moms and dads who have done everything right with their kids. I am not saying their kids are perfect. You still have to hit them with a ball bat every once in a while. But as far as the parents are concerned, they have crossed every "T" and dotted every "I." They have understood their roles. They have meshed their roles together, and it shows.

Everybody will make mistakes in life, especially in parenting. Believe me, I have made my share of mistakes in parenting. But it is the ability to use God. It is the ability to let God structure God's Word to fix the mistake. But you see, to fix the mistake with your kids, you have to go back and fix the mistakes with you. People do not want to do that. It is so much easier in life to blame our problems on everybody else. You see it across this country in the unsaved world. There is no accountability. There is no responsibility. Everything that is happening today is Trump's fault. It does not matter if you do not like this thing over here; this is this person's fault. If you do not like this, well, it is this person's fault. Nobody wants to take personal responsibility in this world that we live in. That is okay with the world, but it will not work in Christianity. You have to take responsibility for yourself. A woman of Proverbs 31, those 14 character qualities came about in her life because she was not passing the buck to somebody else. She recognized what she had to do, and she understood what motherhood really was. Motherhood begins with life, and then motherhood sustains that life. When you mesh the two together, it works perfectly. When one or the other does not work, then you go to the Word of God, you go to the structure, and you fix it because there is always something you can do.

Power of being a godly mother. Over the years, I have heard them speak; most of them are dead now. I looked at men and listened to guys and read about them like Billy Sunday, Bob Jones Sr., guys like Harold Seidler, guys like Oliver Green, even guys like J. Frank Norris, or guys like Phil Ward and Tommy Thomas, and certainly I have heard it a thousand times from Malsobacha, that they would not have been where they were and got done what they got done for the Lord without their godly mother praying for them and being there for them. I am telling you, you can never underestimate the power that you have as a mother to be the beginning of it all and the glue that holds it all together when you work together with your husband. If you have a husband that does not, you do not allow your kids to be destroyed. You do not sit by and let them be destroyed. You have the power, you have the authority, and you have the power to deal with them. As a mother, you need to be the glue that holds it all together. The mother of the beginning of your family, the mother of their beginning of their walk with God. As I said many times, you gave them life, you brought them into this world; now you sustain them as they walk through this life.

Proverbs 31, this virtuous woman, is an incredible thing. I will be honest with you, I was planning on going it like you always do, apply it to us. But boy, when I saw that thing about the mother there, and I caught that first verse where it stated the words of his mother, and I saw that in that whole chapter, the Dad is hardly mentioned, and then I started thinking about Moses, I started thinking about Samuel, I started thinking about all the guys in the Bible and all the stories that they would never have gotten where they got and done what they did without the Mom. Because the mother is the beginning of all things. Dad, you may set the rules, and you may be the spiritual leader, and I hope you are, but I will tell you what, this world would die out in about

three generations if it was not for women and the mother, because you can do a lot of things. You can work, you can hunt, you can fish, you can do all the fun things, you can take them here, you can do this with them, but I will tell you one thing you cannot do: you cannot produce life. Because Eve was "the mother of all living." It starts with her; she is the glue that holds it all together, and she is the ultimate protective force that keeps it together.