

“Another Foolish Man of the Bible!”

Proverbs 15:20; 31:10-31

Intro. –

They say that man is mighty
He governs land and sea,
He wields a mighty scepter
O'er lesser powers that be;
But a mightier power
And stronger man,
From his throne has hurled.
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Today is the day man has set aside to honor the mothers of our homes, and it is well that we should! For even as we find expressed in this famous poem by William Ross Wallace, perhaps the most influential member of any home is the mother! How true we find Ezekiel 16:44 to be, “Behold, everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb concerning you, saying, ‘Like mother like daughter.’” There is no other person from whom the child can receive more ideas, impressions and habits that are lasting. There is no other person with whom the child can spend more time and learn more than mom. Might all mothers assembled here never underestimate your influence. Might you, mother and/or wife, see that whether good or bad, your influence in the home is extensive. Thus, to a large degree, mothers are making or breaking the future. It is the mothers who are promoting or demoting the Church of our Lord! What an amazing responsibility you ladies have! What an amazing task/role you have been given and what a grand and glorious privilege you hold!!

Yes, this is the day we especially think of Mom, but today we’ll be dealing with this idea from a different perspective. This morning we want to honor our moms by considering “Another Foolish Man of the Bible!”

We read of several foolish men in the Bible. We read of the foolish man who built his house upon the sand in Matthew 7:26; the foolish man who says there is no God (Psalm 14:1), and the foolish Galatians who abandoned the grace of God and reverted back to salvation by works (Galatians 3:1)... But another foolish man of the Bible is the man who despises his mother.

Purpose: to see why a man is a fool who despises his mother

It was Abe Lincoln who said, “No man is poor who has a Godly mother.” Our text/message will show why:

I BECAUSE SHE DOES HER HUSBAND GOOD (v 12)

- remainder of Proverbs 31 centers around this one idea – a strong and productive home revolves around the husband/wife relationship:
 - A. Her Conduct Brings Trust
 - 1. In appearance she’s modest... demonstrating all womanly virtues
 - 2. She acts with prudence and discretion in all company so as not to cause damage to the family...
 - 3. All home affairs are cared for should husband be gone whether temporary or permanently...
 - a. she proves herself worthy of her husband’s trust...
 - b. he even leaves her the check book... in total confidence and trust...
 - B. Takes Pain and Pleasure in Her Work
 - 1. She doesn’t waste time (v 27)
 - 2. She applies herself to business that is intended for women (vv 12,19) i.e. accepts God given role
 - woman business described here, not beneath her dignity, but rather fulfillment of her work...
 - C. She Adds to His Reputation (v 23)
 - 1. Husband is free to function as a godly man – i.e. to fulfill God given role...
 - 2. Husband is able to perform his duties knowing the home is well tended...

- his countenance, humor, even his clothes suggest to all his agreeable home life
- 3. Husband is able to make his contribution because his wife is a compliment not competitor...
 - he is enabled to rise to his potential because she lifts him by her wifely support...

Thus, our whole emphasis here is a son with a Godly mother who does good to the son's dad; yet, the son despises his mother?! Such is another foolish man of the Bible!

II BECAUSE SHE CARES FOR HER FAMILY (v 27)

- foolish is the man who forgets or does not recognize how a Godly mother cares for the family...
- A. She Rises Early (v 15)
 1. The activities of the average home are far more demanding than many realize
 2. Again, idleness is something Godly mother has no part; instead, she rises early meet needs...
- B. She is Like a Ship (v 14)
 - as a ship sails far to bring back good, so does the mother in her care for her family... she too travels about, perhaps for bargains etc. to bring back the goods...
- C. She Buys and Plants (v 16)
 - again illustrating how the mother uses her ingenuity to not only save the family money, but to also get the family involved working together...

III BECAUSE SHE CARES FOR HERSELF (v 22)

- Illus. – how often mother (housewife) pictured = curlers... watching TV and eating bon bons?
- A. She Doesn't Neglect Herself
 1. Though working busily to meet family needs, she still takes the time to care for herself...
 2. She loves to dress etc. like that of a true lady...
- B. She Sets High Standards
 1. For daughters, they learn what being a Godly mother entails and that accepting this role is the most womanly thing to do...
 2. For other women, an encouragement to be a Godly woman – something world is not encouraging!

IV BECAUSE SHE FEARS GOD

- this above all other reasons makes the despising son of his Godly mother a fool, because this of all traits completes the Godly woman:
- A. Her Motivation is Properly Placed
 1. Why does she put up with the demands and less than glamorous tasks of being wife/mother?
 2. Why does she refuse defeat or discouragement?
 3. She chooses to honor her God by being what God desires – Godly woman!
- B. Her Beauty is Evident in this Fear
 1. Beauty (by world's standard) is only skin deep... certainly not indication of godliness/wisdom!
 2. She is more concerned about *inner beauty* or *soul beauty* as 1 Peter 3:3-4 “*Your adornment must not be merely external – braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*”

Thus, it is not hard to see why the Godly woman is worth far more than rubies. Yet, again our main purpose is to see this as being the main reason why a man who despises his Godly mother is a fool.

Conclusion: Want to close with this idea: Is it ever dangerous to be too close to your mother? Some say when this relationship goes too far it becomes a *mother complex* or in short, the son becomes a *mamma's boy*. I'd like to end with a few examples of what I mean.

Of James, it was said, there was never a more loyal son. His relationship with his mother was close. It lasted a lifetime. Even on his deathbed, James' agony could only be overcome by writing his mother.

Ted was another mama's boy. Letters to his mother always began, "Darling Beloved Little Motherling:" She had a compulsion for cleanliness and so did he. Back and forth they went for you see Ted and his mother were one in the same.

Next is Bill. Bills' mother said this of him: "I find that Willie needs constant watching and correcting. It requires great caution and firmness, but I do not believe we can love our children too much." You can guess how Bill turned out.

Woody was another mama's boy who was unashamed of it. He often recalled that he came to love the best of womanhood through those apron strings tied around him.

And what about David? When David was a big boy in the Army, he never stopped writing his mother. All throughout his life he subconsciously imitated mama. Her laugh, mannerism etc.

All of these were mama's boys. In time of crisis, they always had mother come to mind. Thus, is it dangerous to be too close to your mother? Well, if you don't you might turn out to be like James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, Woodrow Wilson, and Dwight David Eisenhower.

Might we see how much we have to be grateful to our Godly mothers? We can't be too close to them. Why, the man who despises his Godly mother is Another Foolish Man of the Bible!