

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Proverbs 31

An Uncommon Woman

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Bible Studies

Bible Studies
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A Verse-by-Verse Study of Proverbs Chapter 31
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Proverbs 31

I'd like to ask you to consider being "An Uncommon Woman". A woman so unique that some day people will look at you with shock in their eyes and ask: "What is so different about her?"

There are two ways to do this...I am recommending the 2nd.

The first way would be to look around you and decide that you don't want to be like what you see. To see apathy and decide to be intense. Or to see pettiness and decide to be live on a larger plane. Or to see immorality and decide to be pure. Or to see self-centeredness and decide to focus on others. I don't think this is a powerful-enough way to approach this challenge. If you do this, you are always trying to not be somebody ...but never knowing who you are trying to be.

The 2nd way is to look directly into the face of God, and then ask Him to change you into the woman you see reflected in His eyes. Because He already sees the uncommon woman you could be.

The only way I know to look directly into His eyes is to look into His Word, so I have chosen Proverbs 31 as our window into the face of God:

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:10 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies."

Diamonds are a girls' best friend. Gold is worth dying for. That's what the world says. But God sees diamonds and rubies and knows how common they are. The streets in eternity will be paved with them. We'll be walking on it and not even thinking about it.

So here's how to look at things which sparkle: There will come a day in each of our lives when we could stoop down pick up a cast-off ruby, put it on our finger, or skip it across the pond. **Pleasant...but certainly not valuable.**

:11& 12 "Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."

Someone around whom I can relax. I'll bet each of us could count on one hand the number of people who fit into that category. Even with most of those people we call friends we exercise a little caution..."I might get hurt if I reveal too much."

Wives hold the self-esteem of their husbands in the palm of their hands. When he finally trusts you enough to reveal who he really is, ask the Lord to help you never, never to turn his weaknesses back on him as a weapon to make yourself understood, or to get what you want.

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:13-15: "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls."

Ahhh....a hard worker, who can find? We live in the middle of a culture which values time off, time alone, vacations, having my own space, hobbies, entertainment, and, of course, retirement. ...If you work too hard you make other people look bad...or if you work too hard you may wear yourself out so that you don't have time to enjoy your time off. The Uncommon Woman gets up early and works hard. **She's not afraid of it.**

:16 "She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard."

And she doesn't necessarily just work in the home! She buys and sells real estate...does a little farming....invests in commodities. **The uncommon woman is not a stereotype. She has talents and has learned skills. And she uses them.**

:17-19 "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers."

She knows how to do stuff! Don't you just hate the picture of the woman who is afraid of the plumbing?...who doesn't know how to turn the water off under the house when a pipe springs a leak? (yeah...that's me....but I am working on it!)

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:20 "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy."

She understands those who need. She finds a way to help when someone needs help. And in this crazy world we live in she also asks God for the wisdom to know what kind of help is really help. What kind of need is really need. For there are many, many out there who are becoming professional in letting others do for them what they could be doing for themselves.

:21 "When it snows she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet."

Her family is cared for. Even though she works hard. Even though she holds down a job. Even though.... The Lord does not expect her to be "Super-Mom" who never says no to anything anyone wants. He knows **she can tell what it important and make sure it gets done.** Warm clothes when it snows. Something green on your plate every once in a while.

:22 "She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple."

She's beautiful. And her house and her clothes shout it to the world. It's not about looking like everyone else. It's not about size and weight. It's not about the best house in the elite neighborhood. It's about knowing something...a really well-kept secret. **Every woman is utterly gorgeous.** And then dressing like you know it.

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:23 "Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land."

Do you know why her husband is respected at the city gates? Because the one person in all the world who knows all his secrets would never utter those secrets to a single soul. Not to her mother. Not to her best friend. **His secrets are safe with her.** The uncommon woman might love to talk...but she has drawn a line in the sand...this far, and no farther.

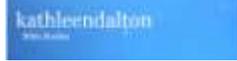
:24 & 25 "She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

This is my favorite. The uncommon woman does so much, has such amazing character, works so hard. She is strong and has dignity. And **she can have a good chuckle about the future** – it doesn't scare her – because she has come to see that she didn't get herself to where she is now...she can't pat herself on the back. The One Who has changed her into what she could be today...will be there tomorrow, too. **Security. The desire for it is supposed to be the one thing we women all have in common. The uncommon woman laughs about it.**

:26 & 27 "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness."

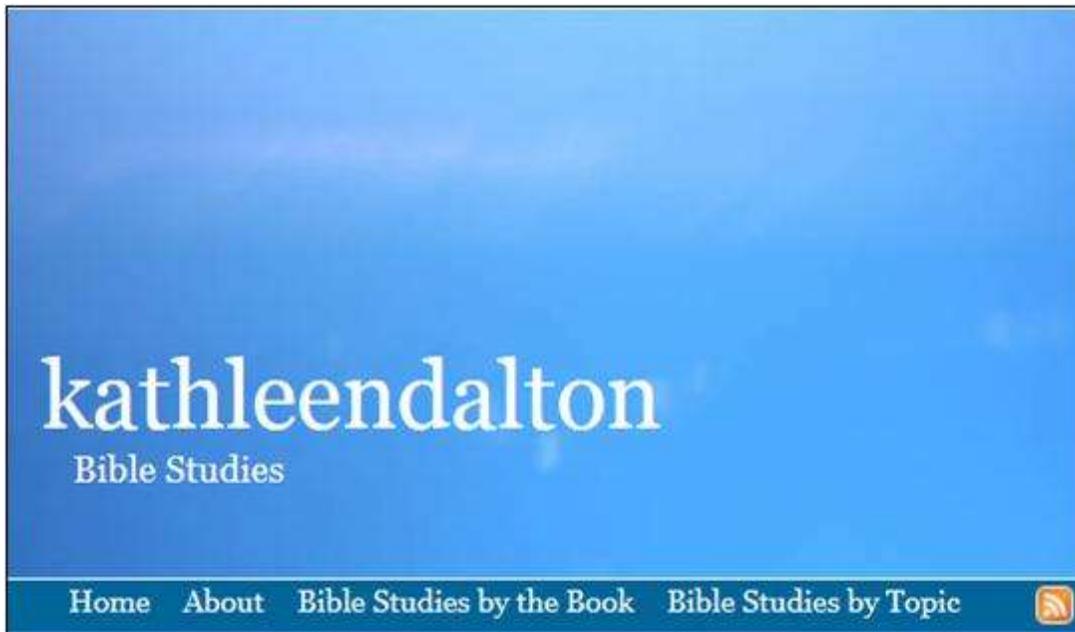
Our world is characterized by lies and laziness, did you know that? How unique is the woman who can be **counted on to know where to find something in scripture...and who is the first one out of her seat to do what needs to be done?**

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:28 "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

Rewards. If you could pick what is behind door #1, door #2, or door #3, what would you hope is back there? It would be praise. Praise you didn't ask for. Praise you didn't even know was coming. **Praise which you could receive with a smile, and then turn around and lovingly offer right back to your Savior...knowing He is the One Who changed you at some point over the years into an Uncommon Woman.**



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