

Doctrine of Virtuous Counsel

Proverbs 31:10-31

1. According to the Strong's Concordance, the word "virtuous" is used only 4 times.
 - *Ruth 3:11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.*
 - *Proverbs 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.*
 - *Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.*
 - *Proverbs 31:29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*
2. The word for virtuous in the Hebrew is *chayil* (khah-yil) and speaks of a force, whether of men, means, or other resources.
3. A virtuous woman is a woman with spiritual force behind her attitude, actions, and words. This spiritual force is of God and not self or Satan.
4. Why does the author ask, "Who can find a virtuous woman?"
 - Because she does not exist?
 - Because she is hard to find?
 - Because he is a male chauvinist who wants all women to feel guilty?
5. Lemuel was a king yet he was taught by his mother.
 - *Proverbs 31:1 The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.*
6. If Lemuel refers to Solomon, then his mother was Bathsheba.
7. Deborah (Judges 5) and Lemuel's mother (Proverbs 31) are among the women honored to be the composers of a whole chapter in the bible.
8. Concerning Lemuel, it can be said he was greatly beloved. He was the son of his mother's womb and the son of her vows and prayers.
 - *Proverbs 31:2 What, my son? And what, the son of my womb? And what, the son of my vows?*

The mother of Augustine was Monica. While her son lived in open immorality and heresy, Monica prayed. One of her friends told her that the child of so many prayers could not be lost.

9. The mother of Lemuel gave her first counsel to her son saying, "Give not thy strength unto women". The reference to "strength" is a reference to sexual immorality. Sexual intemperance will destroy kings.
- *Proverbs 31:3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.*
10. David was hurt by this sin as was the heart of Solomon. God never intended for men to multiply wives or concubine. Kings are destroyed by venereal diseases, jealous intrigues, and political entanglements.
11. Kings should not drink wine. Why is explained. Lest they drink and forget the Law and pervert the judgment of those in trouble.
- *Proverbs 31:4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:*
 - *Proverbs 31:5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.*
- Herod Antipas killed John because he gave himself to strong drink. Alexander the Great, while drunk, killed one of his best friends.
12. People who are sober, people who are not controlled by a substance will not be so quick to commit iniquity against the helpless.
13. The words of Lemuel's mother must not be construed as a total prohibition. There are occasions when it is proper to encourage others to drink. The general principle is to comfort the afflicted.
- *Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. 7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.*
14. Lemuel's mother taught him to be compassionate to all, but especially towards those who through ignorance or awkwardness or fear were able to plead their own case (31:8-9). As Job was eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, and a father to the poor, so Lemuel was to be a champion for the oppressed.
- *Proverbs 31:8 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. 9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.*
15. In all of these virtues of purity and temperance, justice and mercy, Lemuel would reflect our Lord Jesus. He was poor, He was pure, He was temperate, He loved justice, and He showed mercy.