

A Virtuous Woman

Julie Trudgett

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The book of Ruth has always been a favourite of mine. Two of the main personalities, Boaz and Ruth, set a model for the high standard of Christian living we should all attain to. Boaz was a true gentleman, displaying honour, compassion, graciousness and courtesy to both Ruth and those in his community. During the conversation between Boaz and Ruth, when she presented herself to him and claimed him as her kinsman, Boaz called her ‘a virtuous woman’ (Ruth 3:11) and he was right! Her compassion and dedication to Naomi, her hard-work ethic and humility to provide for her household and her purity and fidelity, are all virtues of an exemplary standard.



Figure 1: Boaz and Ruth.

The Bible speaks of another ‘Virtuous Woman’ in Proverbs 31:10-31 and her worth is far greater than rubies. With twenty-two attributes covered in these verses about this Godly woman, we can surely say that it is not an easy job

description. Oh what a high calling we have as women, wives and mothers to be a blessing to those around us. Am I a virtuous woman? Have I asked God to strengthen me in my areas of weakness? Am I trustworthy (v.11), compassionate (v.20), wise and kind? (v.26) Am I a woman of God? (v.30) Just like Ruth, we can honour God with our commitments, our hard work and our faith that God knows what is best for us even if we don't.

The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom and advice aimed at aiding us in having an abundant and successful life. Although none of us can claim to be the perfect wife or mother, God must have thought our role an important one. The 'praise of a virtuous woman' is placed at the very end of the book of Proverbs. Perhaps His expectation is higher of us than others. Perhaps we are expected to demonstrate the principles of wisdom in our homes as an example to be followed. Who can find a virtuous woman? (v.10) What would Jesus find if he knocked on my door?

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Please direct enquiries or corrections to: julietrudgett at gmail dot com

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