

- v. (25) She is ready for whatever the future may dish out.
 - Ruth 3:11
 - Ruth 2:7
 - Ruth 3:10
- vi. (26) She imparts wisdom to her children and others.
- vii. (27) She manages her household well... and is not eating the delights of idleness.

III. She is a Wise Warrior (31:28-31)

A. The Prov. 31 woman embodies wisdom.

You can't be embracing wisdom, and a foolish woman at the same time. What you set out to embrace in a woman reveals your heart.

B. Life is war... choose wisely.

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- How do Proverbs 21:19, and 12:4 qualify or explain 18:22? What does this mean for you?
- How does God's list compare to what you thought you should have on your list? How do the differences allow you to put into practice Proverbs 3:5?
- What do you think of the statement that what a man needs in a wife is a battle companion for the war of life? Explain.
- How does what we look for in a spouse reveal our heart?
- What did you take away from this message that you can apply in your own life, no matter what your status?
- How does this poem inform us that the whole book is for women too?

Wisdom's Promise—Folly's Pain Choose a Wife for the War of Life Jerry Cisar — May 9, 2010

Text: Proverbs 31:10-31

Introduction: Choosing a Wife?

- Prov. 18:22
- Prov. 21:19
- Prov. 12:4

A. Making your list?

- i. Proverbs 31:10-31 doesn't need an addendum.
- ii. *Its structure proclaims its sufficiency!*

B. Obvious exclusions

- i. Sexuality is obviously missing; beauty and charm are noticeably renounced as a guide for choosing wisely.
- ii. Beauty is not the problem
 - Proverbs 11:22
 - Prov. 23:5

C. What is on God's A-Z list for a wife?

Just like a military hero conquers his foes, this wife conquers the world-around-her for the good of her family and others.

When choosing a wife, choose a battle companion for the war of life!

I. She is a Trusted Warrior (31:11-18)

A. *Her husband has full confidence in her...*

B. 11b: *"He doesn't lack **spoil**, or **plunder**."*

C. How does she conquer? From where do her spoils come?

i. 13 Wool/flax... She takes the raw materials of life and produces the necessary provisions for her family.

ii. 14 She is industrious and innovative.

iii. 15 (Waltke): *"She arises while it is still night and provides **prey** for her household."*

iv. 16-18 the work she does profits the family, not draining the family of its resources.

a) She is intelligent in her planning, decisive in her actions, and tireless in her endeavors. She doesn't shrink from hard work.

v. vs. 18 her lamp does not go out at night...

II. She is a Faithful Warrior (31:19-27)

A. This wife is actively furthering the welfare of the community, but never to the neglect of her family.

B. How is it that she is faithful?

i. She closes her hands around work and opens her hands to others.

ii. (21) She is prepared even for the extreme conditions

iii. (22) This is a together person; not sloppy.

iv. (24) She exports her productivity.