

Bite Size Bible Study

The Capable Marriage #108

By Pastor Lee

I was reading Proverbs 31:10-31 (The Capable Wife) and these verses that Jesus said in Matthew 19:4-6 came to mind as well.

... at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female, for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh {(echad) meaning one complex unity}. So they are no longer two, but one flesh (echad). Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.

Since the man and the wife are to be considered one, I thought why not paraphrase of those verses in Proverbs in light of them being one.

Who can find a capable spouse?

Their value is far beyond that of great riches.

Each trusts the other from their heart,

and each prove a great asset to the other.

They work to bring good, not harm,

all the days of their lives.

They procure supplies for the family

and work with willing hands.

They are like the merchants,

who bring food and supplies from far away.

It's still dark when they rise to give food to the

household and directions to those serving them.

Together they consider a field, then buy it,

and from the earnings, plant a vineyard.

They gather strength from each other

and throw themselves into their work.

Together they see that their business affairs go well;

their lamp stays lit at night.

They put their hands to the work at hand;

and their feet are quick to complete the tasks.

As one they reach out to embrace the poor
and open their arms to the needy.

When it snows, there is no fear for the household;
since all needs have been attended to.

They make the family fine clothes;
they are all clothed in fine linen and purple.

They are known throughout the city;
and sit with the leaders of the land.

They clothe themselves with strength and dignity,
and can look forward to the days to come.

Together they speak wisely;
on their tongue is loving instruction.

They observe with love how things go in their home,
and are not prone to idleness.

Their children arise; they make them happy;
praises are frequent and heartfelt for all:

"Many marriages have done wonderful things,
but this one is an inspiration to all!"

Charm can lie, beauty can vanish,
but a marriage that respects Adonai should be praised.

Their life together is an example for all;
let it receive praises within the community

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