

A WEEKLY WORD

September 22nd, 2024

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READINGS: [Proverbs 31:10-31](#) and [Psalm 1](#); [James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a](#); [Mark 9:30-37](#)

Proverbs 31 is titled “The Capable Wife”. If you read it through you will be amazed by this woman, this person who is perfect in all ways. She looks after everyone and everything!

I don't know about you, but I find this woman very intimidating, IF I take it all literally. It's something to strive for, but not easily attainable. Look at the reference in the James reading, verse 7-8: ***“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”***

Now we see the possibilities before us. The closer we are in tune with God, the more we can do in His service. Looking after our families is a service that we do in God's name every day. The cup of tea we pour for our husband or friend is an act of service. Doing our children's laundry, (even when the pockets are full of icky things) is an act of service. I could go on and on with all the things we women do every day, but I think my point is made. If everything we do is with a loving attitude for the recipient, we are doing it in God's name, no matter how trivial or important. When we find it unbearable to take another step forward, draw near to God and ask him for the strength and wisdom to keep going.

Some evenings after supper I am just too tired to do the dishes. Been there? So I sit for awhile, rest for a bit and ask God to give me the strength to get up and do the dishes. Sometimes He provides someone else to do them for me, or at least to help me do them. Whatever, they get done.

What I am trying to say is that we may never be “The Capable Wife” as described in Proverbs 31, and that’s OK. God doesn’t expect that of us. He wants us to lean on Him, depend on Him to continue in service in His name each day. Just a little thought to leave you with, “*sometimes that act of service is just saying a prayer*” . Not too strenuous, right?

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’Matt 25.40