
By
Faith
Reynolds

THE PAGE

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Getting GBC ladies on the same page.

Who can find a virtuous woman?

Proverbs 31:10 asks this very question. The verse is not saying that it is impossible to find a virtuous woman, but that she is *difficult* to find. She is as rare and as valuable as rubies, the verse goes on to say. I'm pretty sure people have found rubies, though. In fact, there are ruby mines in countries like Australia, Cambodia, Madagascar, and the largest being in Myanmar. Rubies are being found frequently. Granted, we must hunt for them. Not one of us will happen across a ruby in the rough by accident, but it *is* possible to find one if you look hard enough and in the right places.

Proverbs 31 is filled with *actions* that the "Virtuous Woman" does. In modern times, she would be the

one to return her shopping cart to Aldi's in order to get her quarter back – thrifty. She is buying raw milk from a goat herder she met at Whole Foods – healthy. She for sure drives a Tesla – environmentally friendly. Her go-to Christmas gift is hand-knitted sweaters – personable. At church, she steps into any position that needs her – talented and serving. On Thanksgiving, she serves the perfect turkey, and on Christmas, the perfect ham – domesticated. Her husband steps up to take the lead and her kids step back to obey their parents – idyllic.

Though I give these examples with tongue-in-cheek, these are not wrong things to have in our lives. The wrong comes in when we think these actions *make* us virtuous.

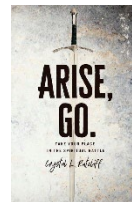
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BOOK RECOMMENDATION



"The Man Behind the Patch" is a fantastic brand-new biography of Ron Hamilton available at majestymusic.com.

DEVOTIONAL RECOMMENDATION



"Arise and Go" by Crystal L. Ratcliff would be a great devotional to begin in the new year and is available on Amazon.

FURTHER BIBLE STUDY

-Look at "virtue" in 2 Peter 1:5-this time meaning "excellence."

-Think of a woman whom you would call "virtuous." Why would you give her that title?

FOR GIGGLES



"Christmas is a baby shower that went totally overboard."

—ANDY BOROWITZ

The emphasis in this chapter is not placed on all the stuff she *did*; it is on the fact that she was *virtuous*. That's the point! Let's now look at someone else who was known for virtue. Jesus.

Mark 5:30, "And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that **virtue** had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, Who touched My clothes?"

This is the story of the woman with the issue of blood who, in her last chance of being healed, touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was miraculously healed. Jesus knew that she had purposely touched Him in faith because virtue had gone out of Him. Virtue in this verse means "power or a mighty work." Logic with me: if virtue went out of Him, that means virtue had to have been inside of Him. When the virtue left Him, who did it affect? *The woman who touched Him!* Let's now tie this together with our desire as women to be that rare find, that virtuous woman.

Virtue comes from touching Jesus!

We do not become virtuous by checking off some list of things we are "supposed" to do. Virtue comes from being close to Jesus, close enough to touch Him. No doubt as we are filled with His power we will do virtuous things by default. The love of God will compel us to love others. An inner gratitude will urge us to give and to be a wise steward of our money. A love for God will cause us to work willingly in home and ministry. We are not performing these actions to *become* virtuous but because we *are* virtuous.

So many miss the point. We can work so hard to *look like* a virtuous woman instead of spending time with Jesus every day so we can actually *be* a virtuous woman. How exhausting it must be to keep up a façade all the time instead of the real us being virtuous.

Sometimes the "clean" button on our dishwasher will be lit up, but when I grab a mug from the rack, it is dirty on the inside. We can clean a mug's outside, and the inside still be dirty, but when we thoroughly clean the inside, it's hard

not to affect the outside. If our focus is getting the inside of us truly clean, inevitably the outside is going to see some improvement too. The closer we get to Jesus the more He rubs off on us. What virtuous attributes rub off? Oh, things like love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. If you and I saw a woman with all these attributes, we would definitely call her virtuous! Remember the goal as you read Proverbs 31: it's not to *do* all the things, it's to *be* virtuous. I will close with this question: Is your emphasis on the doing or the being?