



I Had No Idea!

Proverbs 31:10-31

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Here we are at another Mother's Day—pressured by tradition, Hallmark, FTD, children and the church to do something! And whatever you do...stay away from Proverbs 31!

Proverbs 31:10-31—one of the most frightening passages in the Scriptures, reads like a Hallmark Mother's Day card. It is a poetic acrostic in the Hebrew language using phrases of overstatement to honor this woman who is so appreciated by her family and those near to her. These words are a biblical call for us to understand that:

- 1 Everyone needs to feel appreciated, including Mom (31:10-11).
- 2 It lies within our power to express our appreciation for those around us, especially for mom (31:28, 31).
- 3 Our focus is to be upon the intangibles rather than the results (31:11-13, 18-20, 25-27).

THE ONE THING: Excel at expressing appreciation

taking it home

{ notes for small group,
family & personal study }

may 13, 2012 }

Each week, *Taking it Home* notes are now graciously written by a team of Oakwood writers: Terry Breunig, Shana Hammond, Shelley Hooper, Rich Jefferson, Tom Reilly & Al Spiegel

keeping it real

1 What are some things that people have said or done to make you feel appreciated?

look at the book

2 The Proverbs 31 woman receives praise from her husband. What are some ways that Paul expresses his appreciation for people? Why does he do so?

- Romans 16:1-2
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 8:16-23;
- 1 Thessalonians 1

3 In Proverbs 1:7 it says that, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." In Proverbs 31:30, it says that, "a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." The Psalms also exalt those who fear the Lord (25:12; 25:14; 33:18; 34:7; 34:9; 103:13; 112:1; 128:1; 128:4). What do you think is the biblical definition of "fearing the Lord" (Jeremiah 10:6-7; Psalm 33:6-9)?

the next step

4 If you were to stand before God today, do you think He would appreciate the work you are doing? Would He exalt you for fearing Him? Where are some specific areas in your life that need work?

my next step this week is to:

- Memorize Proverbs 31:30-31.
- Write a letter of appreciation to _____ for _____.
- Identify the intangible that you most need to focus upon.
- Other _____