

The Wise Woman Builds Her Home

Proverbs 14:1

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¹ The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

Did you know that the lady responsible to establish Mother's Day was inspired by mothers in the Bible at a Sunday school class? You can give credit to Anna Jarvis for Mother's Day. Anna was the daughter of a pastor. It is said that this remarkable lady, when she was twelve years, was listening to her mother teach a Sunday school class. If you are twelve years old or a teenager, imagine what God may do through you one day.

One day Anna heard her mother pray that someone someday will remember a day that honors mothers living and dead. Her mother had seen a lot of suffering and had also seen many of her children die. Anna was so touched by her mother's prayer. So Anna took up the cause. And in 1907, a year after her mother died, she gave five hundred carnation flowers to everyone in attendance at a tribute she hosted. And that day became the motivating force behind Mother's Day. In 1914, Mother's Day became official. To be remembered on the second Sunday in May.

Abraham Lincoln said that all he was and hoped to be was because of his mother.

It is said that Charles Spurgeon heard his mother praying for him and moved him to put his faith in Jesus Christ.

Billy Graham is quoted to have said *"If we had more Christian mothers, we would have less delinquency, less immorality, less ungodliness and fewer broken homes. Every mother owes it to her children to accept Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, so that she may be the influence for good in the lives of those whom the Lord has graciously given to her."*

I couldn't agree more. Godly Christian mothers are the need of the day.

Mothers have been given such a wonderful and unique task. They are builders of the home. They are anchors and co-laborers of love in the family. And mothers have this unique God given capacity that no man has and will ever have. *What is that?* The opportunity and the responsibility to bring new life from their own bodies. And much wisdom is needed when those children arrive in this world.

In our consideration of Proverbs fourteen verse one for today, we see a *major* distinction between the wise woman and the foolish woman.

The wise woman builds her home. But the foolish woman tears it down.

Let me cover the negative part of this verse first.

The woman by her folly tears down her house. Notice the tearing down does not happen automatically.

It happens through folly. Foolishness causes her own hands to destroy.

No reasonable man or woman would want to see their household destroyed, demolished and left to ruins. What kind of woman would want to destroy a home? But a foolish woman destroys it. What a tragedy to see many mothers these days dancing to the impulses of little children. Train the children when they are young.

Millions of unborn children have been destroyed by foolish women. Just on a whim, women can go and tear down precious life and call it healthcare.

In the Old Testament, we see a woman by the name of Jezebel who is known for tearing down and destroying. In 1 Kings chapter twenty-one verse twenty-five we see a summary statement of who Jezebel is. *“There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited”* 1 Kings 21:25.

You see this woman incited her husband to disregard God and his commandments.

What else does Jezebel do? She kills the prophets of God. She threatens Elijah the prophet. She uses God’s name in vain and acquires a property by killing the owner (1 Kings 21:14). And how does it end for her?

She is killed and dogs licked her blood. And nothing was left of her when they tried to bury her. (2 Kings 9: 35-37). This is what foolishness can do.

Folly to have utter disregard for God and His authority.

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’”. (Psalm 14:1).

And foolishness can cause so much damage in the next generation. Jezebel’s foolishness resulted in her own death but it did not end with her. Her son Joram paid the price too.

You see what folly does? It tore down the whole family of Ahab.

It is so sad to see some Christian women and mothers dressing in a way that is quite embarrassing to their own children. Meekness is precious in the sight of God.

Now, on the positive side, we see verse one begins with the wise woman. The wise woman builds the home.

What can we know about wisdom from the Bible.

The foundation of all wisdom begins with fearing God.

Proverbs 1:7 *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction”*.

“The wise of heart receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin” Proverbs 10:8
 To fear the Lord is to honor God and his commandments. To submit to God’s authority.

“the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him” Psalm 147:11

As I was studying, I would like you to consider one mother in the Bible. There are so many wonderful mothers we could look at but this mother is exceptional. Jochebed was her name. She truly feared the Lord. She submitted to the Lord. She submitted to her husband. And what a blessing her family was to others – she produced Moses the servant of the Lord.

I want you to see at least *three* observations in how Jochebed built her home with wisdom.

1. The first thing you see is that Jochebed was a God-fearing woman. *Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.* (Proverbs 31:30). This was a positive kind of fear or reverence. Hebrews 11:23 tells us that the parents of Moses *“they were not afraid of the king’s edict”*. It’s not that they were not fearful but their fear of God and faith in God was so strong that they defied the king. Jochebed has faith in God. So instead of obeying the king’s command to kill children, she preserved the child Moses. She did the right thing. She took to action. There is also another kind of fear that is negative. That kind of fear can paralyze us and make cowards out of us. Have you ever been fearful? Let Jochebed remind you that the fear of Lord is wisdom.
2. The second thing you see is they Jochebed saw that her child was beautiful. Jewish legend says that Moses’ face was so beautiful that the room was filled with light when he was born. You see the mother saw the beauty and the precious life God had given her. And in spite of the odds she was facing, she was trusted God to protect the child.
3. The third thing you see is God’s favor on Jochebed when she walked in wisdom. Pharaoh wanted to the kill children but Pharaoh’s daughter pays to raise this child and adopts him as her son. Listen to the words of Jesus to his disciples – *“not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives”* Luke 21:18-19

Looking at the Lord Jesus Christ, we see how the mother who carried him also walked in the fear of the Lord. Mary is obedient and submissive to the call of God on her life.

Here is a portion of Mary’s song from Luke chapter one.

And Mary said, *“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.”* Luke 1:46-50

God's mercy is on whom? For those who fear him.

For how long? From generation to generation.

This is the godly mother's legacy.

There are times I wonder what the brothers of Jesus would have said of Mary. Perhaps they said something like this. "Our mother feared the Lord. Our mother was a servant of the Lord. Our mother lived to please the Lord. We want to follow the Lord just like my mom". I pray that the Lord gives mothers a wisdom that blesses so many around us.

The Bible tells us that God is ready to give wisdom if we ask him.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." James 1:5

And there is only one way to ask God for wisdom. It is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote to the Colossians saying that in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ, it is not too late.

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: **The Wise Woman Builds Her Home.** Proverbs 14:1

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. Read Proverbs 31:30. Share how mothers have shaped and impacted you.

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. How would you describe the spiritual influence of mothers or women? Ruth 3:1, 1 Samuel 2:20-21, 2 Timothy 1:5, Titus 2:3-5
3. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

1. For personal reflection: What are some ways you can promote godliness?