

TRUTH & LIGHT

WELLSBURG
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BLESSING OF SERVICE

“And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them,” (Mk. 1:29-31). There is a great temptation to trivialize and deem as insignificant the daily necessary routine life of domestic service performed by women in the home. Washing and ironing clothes, cleaning up children and their messes, preparing meals and tidying up the living room is often portrayed in such unglamorous visions that the women who feel burdened by these chores often sense they are sinking into a dark pit of unimportant anonymity while the rest of the world moves in glorious fashion

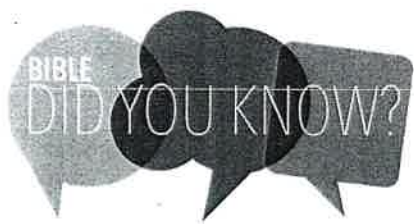
performing the more important deeds of the day. In many instances, you can almost feel the collective disintegration of self worth and personal identity many women portray as they hear their mighty call from the pulpit to be good housekeepers and serving mothers and wives. *“...encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored,” (Titus 2:4-5).* *“...get married, bear children, keep house...” (1 Tim. 5:14).* What I love about this account in the gospel of Mark regarding the healing of Pêter’s mother-in-law is the way it powerfully restores the great honor and prestige which rightfully needs to be attributed to the dignified and honorable role of domestic service in the home. The powerful

demonstration of the compassionate healing power in Christ is performed upon a woman with a severe fever (Lk. 4:38), and an equally powerful demonstration of her immense gratitude is seen in her immediate reaction to serve her family. What needs to be noted is her great act of kindness in preparing a meal or making her guests feel comfortable is directly proportionate to the great act of divine power performed upon her by Jesus. Shown immediately next to the awesome display of compassionate healing power simply by taking her by the hand and raising her up, her performance of service in the home as a direct response to that great divine power can hardly be viewed as trivial or insignificant or as a boring chore, but an exciting and powerful way of demonstrating her gratitude for having been the recipient of great healing power. As happy and grateful and honored as she certainly must have been to be healed through the means of divine miraculous power, these same emotions of joy and excitement and honor are what prompted her to begin taking care of the rest of the guests in the home. She could hardly have viewed herself as an anonymous insignificant housekeeper who is unimportantly sweeping up

crumbs off the kitchen table or pouring someone a drink of water, shrinking up in her mind as a second class member of society stuck at home working in the kitchen. Jesus had just taken time away from casting out demons to come directly to Peter's mother-in-law and lavish His might and power on her. She had been directly visited by God! Certainly she must have felt the honor and delight of knowing God was paying special attention to her that hour and could in no way be performing her duties in the home as an insignificant shadow. Perhaps mothers and wives need to be reminded of this. Can you just picture the overwhelming joy this woman must have felt as she showed Jesus to a comfortable place to sit and relax or prepared a meal for Peter and Andrew? As the house would later be overflowing with visitors as the entire city would be crowded at the door, can you see her working to serve those who were being healed or even attending to those waiting to be healed? Offering them something to eat, helping to clean the mess after everyone went home, sweeping up, washing dishes, putting the house back in order... And once it had all been put back in place, she had to do it all over again several days later when Jesus

came back and everyone heard of it and so many people came to hear Him preach that four men had to lower their paralytic friend through the roof to get to Jesus. As soon as this woman was healed of her fever, in her joy and thankfulness and honor she felt to be viewed as important enough to be visited and cured by Jesus, she was compelled to behave in a manner which would reflect her acknowledgment that an awesome demonstration of divine magnificent power had been performed upon her – “*she waited on them.*” Let her be a reminder that there is great work to be done by wives and mothers in the home that is a great honor and privilege to take part in. I’m told of one such woman who wanted to be constantly reminded of how needed and important her work as a homemaker was by hanging a sign above her kitchen sink which read, “Divine Service Performed Here Daily”. As husbands and fathers, let us remind those in our family who work so hard to make our homes a comfort to live in how thankful we are for the great work of service they render for us, thereby showing and teaching our children how spiritually important the simple act of buttering a warm slice of toast for a hungry guest or family member truly is.

— Daniel Ruegg



“A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold. The rich and the poor have a common bond, the LORD is the maker of them all. The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naïve go on, and are punished for it. The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life. Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards himself will be far from them.”

Prov. 22:1-5

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will ____.

- a) Fade
- b) Rot
- c) Slip
- d) Fall

2. The wise of heart will receive ____, but a babbling fool will be ruined.

- a) Money
- b) Praise
- c) Treasure
- d) Commands

3. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all ____.

- a) Transgressions
- b) Blessings
- c) Situations
- d) Families

4. He who conceals hatred has lying ____, and he who spreads slander is a fool.

- a) Spirit
- b) Faith
- c) Righteousness
- d) Lips

5. When pride comes, then comes ____, but with the humble is wisdom.

- a) Dishonor
- b) Spirit
- c) Truth
- d) Faith

6. He who despises his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of ____ keeps silent.

- a) Integrity
- b) Strength
- c) Ability
- d) Understanding

7. He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is ____ conceals a matter.

- a) Truth
- b) Righteousness
- c) Trustworthy
- d) Spirit

8. He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, but blessing will be on the head of him who ____ it.

- a) Steals
- b) Sells
- c) Eats
- d) Hides

9. Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is ____.

- a) Sneaky
- b) Exceptional
- c) Stupid
- d) Savy

10. There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings ____.

- a) Watchfulness
- b) Protection
- c) Cheerfulness
- d) Healing

- 1) B, Reference: Prov. 6:7
- 2) D, Reference: Prov. 10:8
- 3) A, Reference: Prov. 10:12
- 4) D, Reference: Prov. 10:18
- 5) A, Reference: Prov. 11:2
- 6) D, Reference: Prov. 11:12
- 7) C, Prov. 11:13
- 8) B, Prov. 11:26
- 9) C, Prov. 12:1
- 10) D, Prov. 12:18