

It comes back to story

Esther

Week 8
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Subtle and lovely (Esther 5:1-8)

INTRODUCTION

The gender war in our current world is destroying God's intent for men and women and how they are to relate in their interpersonal relationships. As we looked at men failing to live in a godly way in Esther week 3, so today we looked at women who are subtle and lovely.

DISCUSSION

Proverbs gives a list of eight (or more) types of women. Looking at our world today, come up with your own list of what types of women there are.

EXPLANATION

What is your gut reaction when you hear that women are to be subtle and lovely?

How do you feel when you read scripture and see that God has given certain roles and domains that are different to men and women?

Why is femininity embraced by women (by how they dress, smell, etc) but discarded out of hand if spoken of out loud and pointed out?

APPLICATION

Based upon how you have lived your life, what type of culture would you be building?

What values would that culture hold to, based on HOW YOU ACTUALLY LIVE, not on how you would LIKE to live?

What does the term 'helper' mean to you?

What does the term 'helper' mean to God who calls Himself 'helper'?

How can men and women both live in a way that is honoring to God and each other that builds a culture that reflects the goodness and grace of Christ?

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Proverbs 12:4

Genesis 21:17

Psalms 114:5

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 12:29

Genesis 1:28

Genesis 2:18, 20, 22-23

Genesis 3:19

Genesis 3:16

Proverbs 9:13-16

Proverbs 11:22

Proverbs 23:26-28

Proverbs 29:3

Proverbs 31:3

Proverbs 25:24

Proverbs 19:13

Proverbs 21:19-20

Proverbs 5:3-5

Proverbs 31:10-31

Week 8 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



Subtle and lovely (Esther 5:1-8)

Proverbs 12:4 "A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones"

There is a gender war that has sprung up since the fall of mankind into sin. Feminism and sexism is not the beginning, God saw it coming because of the issues of sin in our lives (Gen 3:16). Men fail in taking responsibility for their lot in life and women step into the gap, that a man is supposed to fill, and becomes bitter and resentful for having to do it.

Esther 5:1-8 (Doing Something)

Because the Jews are set to be slaughtered, Esther understands she must do something about it. She approaches the King in a terrified posture (Esther 5:3; ref: Gen 21:17, Ps 114:5) because she knows what happened to the previous queen who displeased Xerxes. So Esther comes before the King subtle and lovely to set her plan in motion.

Subtle, smart, lovely and brilliant women seem to scare a lot of men, but scripture tells you that these things make a good wife (Proverbs 31). Femininity is not to be discarded by women (as feminism teaches) but embraced because God made women to be women.

In Genesis you see God create men and women as equal but distinctive in their roles of creating a God honoring culture. God gave the woman certain domains just like he did the man:

- The woman was created out of the side of the man - **EQUALS** (Genesis 1:28),
- To be a **MOTHER** of fruitful children.
- The woman was to be a **HELPER** to her husband in creating a God glorifying culture (Genesis 2:18, 2:20)
- The woman was to live as a **DAUGHTER** of God, her Father (Genesis 2:22-23)
- She was to be a holy **LOVER**; what was taken from man is reunited with the man.

When the man and the woman sin and separate themselves from God, their judgment is related to the domains that God has set up. The man's judgment is in regard to his domain of work and provision for his family, the woman's judgment is in regard to her role as wife, mother, and culture builder.

Types of Women In the book of Proverbs

- I. The Foolish Woman - Proverbs 9:13-18
- II. The Embarrassing Woman - Proverbs 11:22
- III. The Easy Woman - Proverbs 23:26-28; Proverbs 29:3; Proverbs 31:3
- IV. The Expensive Woman - Proverbs 31:3
- V. The Quarrelsome Woman - Proverbs 25:24; Proverbs 19:13
- VI. The Moody Woman - Proverbs 21:19-20
- VII. The Flirtatious Woman - Proverbs 5:3-5

AND...

A Rare Jewel (Proverbs 31:10-31) – in Proverbs 31 you get insight into a woman who combines feminine strength and wisdom to be an unequalled wife, mother, worshipper, businesswoman and minister with a life filled with abundant joy and fruitfulness.