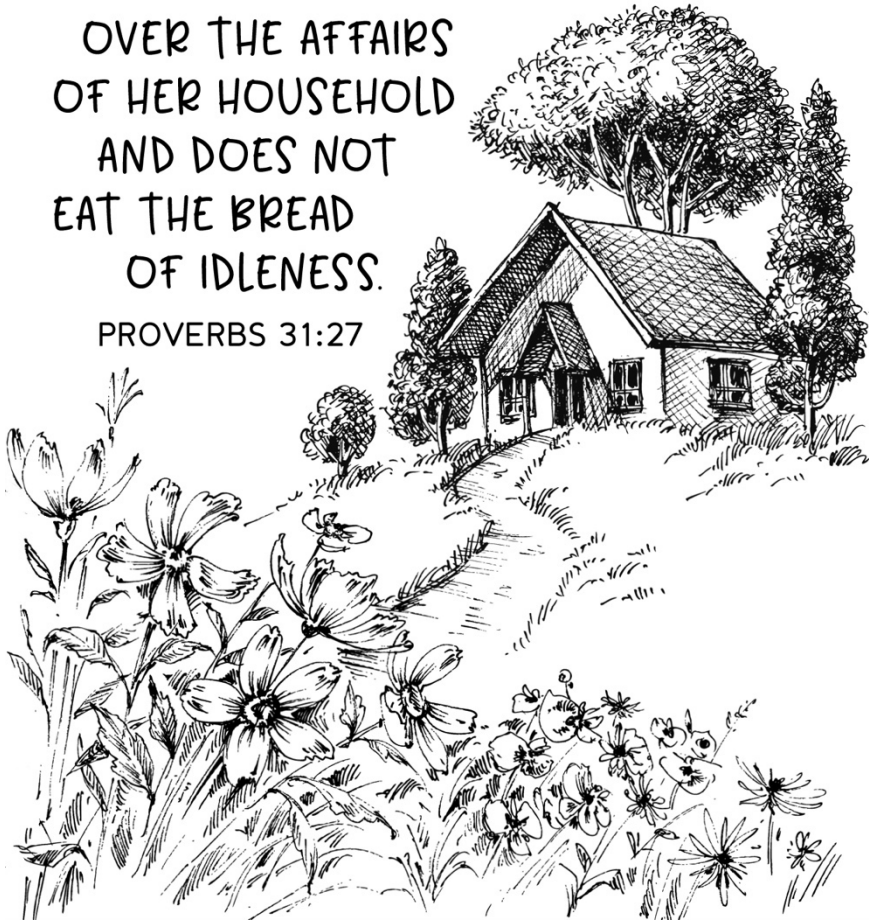


She watches

OVER THE AFFAIRS
OF HER HOUSEHOLD
AND DOES NOT
EAT THE BREAD
OF IDLENESS.

PROVERBS 31:27



CHAPTER 6

She is Diligent

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: JOB 1, 2 & 31

If you've ever been to our house, you might have met our Bull Mastiff. Gabby is 120 pounds of pure muscle, but beneath that rough exterior, she's a gentle soul that will melt your heart. Gabby watches over the house like a hawk. She doesn't miss a sound, and she doesn't miss a smell. She could be snoring away on the living room sofa, and she'd still know if I opened a package of crackers in the other room.

Gabby patrols the yard, chasing out squirrels and sniffing out every nook and cranny she can find. Her sharp ears and keen sense of smell provide us all with a feeling of safety, but Gabby's not the only one watching our house; I am.

SHE WATCHES OVER THE AFFAIRS OF HER FAMILY

The Bible tells us that The P31 Woman watches over the affairs of her household. What does that mean exactly? Depending on the dynamics of one's home it can include anything from managing finances, keeping our homes clean and organized, meal planning, nurturing the spiritual development of our children, managing screen time, guarding what they are seeing on those screens, keeping

them safe, and ensuring that they get their schoolwork done. Does that mean you'll be doing all of this alone? Not necessarily. We should be training our children to take on age-appropriate responsibilities, and again depending on the dynamics of one's home, the management of one thing or another may be shared with your husband.

The bottom line here is that The P31 Woman keeps a close eye on her family to make sure that everything is running smoothly.

SHE WISELY USES HER TIME

On the surface, this might feel like an awfully big to-do list, but notice also that the verse says, "and does not eat the bread of idleness."

Titus 2:3-5 says,

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."



In other versions of the Bible, the words "busy at home" are translated as "keepers of the home," which is more than simply cleaning a house. To keep something means to look after it or to be responsible for it, the way that an innkeeper is responsible for the affairs of an Inn. They watch who is coming and going. They make

The Bible says,

*"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!
It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its
provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest."
(Proverbs 6:6-8)*

In other words, this little ant has more sense in her microscopic brain than I've ever had. She's wise enough to do what needs to be done before it gets out of hand.

SHE KEEPS HER PRIORITIES IN CHECK

People procrastinate for a number of reasons. One common reason, and one that I deal with often (especially at tax time), is that my priorities are out of whack. I'm putting aside anything that takes me out of my comfort zone until life is so uncomfortable that I have to deal with it.

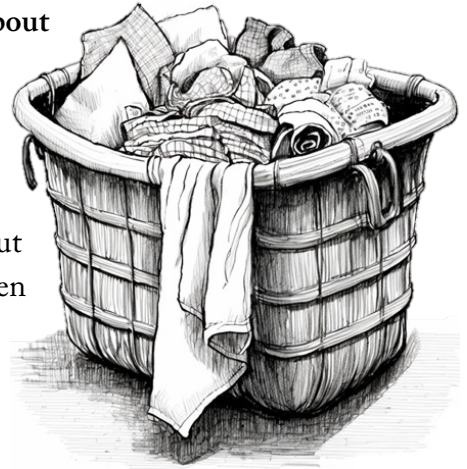
Here's the thing about procrastination—it only makes things worse. It takes the little stress that you have and stretches it out over time. You can choose to be stressed out for weeks (maybe years), or you can do what needs to be done today.

We serve a wise and faithful God. He's not a God of confusion, He's not a God of disorder, and He hasn't given us a Spirit of fear. He knows the peace that comes with a clutter-free life. He knows the joy that comes to those who prepare. And so, He instructs us to go to the ant and to learn from her ways. Do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, not when it's out of control.

How can we embrace this same kind of order and attention to our homes? Let me share a few tips that have helped me along the way:

1. Remember that diligence is not about perfection, but about effort.

It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we have to be flawless in order to be diligent. But that's simply not true! Diligence is about putting in our best effort, even when things are challenging or imperfect. When we focus on serving God with our diligence, rather than seeking the approval of others or trying to earn our own worth, we can find freedom and joy in our work.



2. Find ways to infuse joy and creativity into your daily tasks.

Diligence doesn't have to be boring or monotonous! In fact, when we approach our work with a sense of playfulness or curiosity, we can often discover new insights or solutions that we might have overlooked otherwise. For example, if you're a stay-at-home mom who spends a lot of time doing household chores, try listening to worship music or podcasts while you work, or challenge yourself to find new and interesting ways to organize your space. If you're a working professional who feels stuck in a routine, try brainstorming new ideas or collaborating with colleagues to bring fresh energy to your job.

3. Celebrate small victories and milestones.

Every small step we take is a victory in itself. Whether you've finally finished that big project at work, decluttered a room in your house, or met a personal goal, take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate your progress. This positive

reinforcement will help keep you motivated and inspired to continue on your journey of diligence.

4. Keep your focus on God.

Remember that everything we do is ultimately for His glory, not our own. When we keep our hearts and minds fixed on Him, we can find strength and motivation to keep going even when things get tough.

5. Make a plan and stick to it.

Diligence requires discipline, and that means setting goals and working towards them consistently. Whether it's a daily routine, a long-term project, or something in between, make a plan and commit to it. And don't be afraid to adjust your plan as needed—flexibility is part of diligence too!



6. Find joy in the journey.

Diligence doesn't have to be dull—in fact, it can be a source of great joy and satisfaction. Look for ways to infuse your work with creativity and fun, whether it's listening to music, trying new recipes, or taking breaks to play with your kids. And celebrate your successes along the way, no matter how small they may seem.

7. Don't compare yourself to others.

We all have different callings and different paths in life. It's easy to fall into the trap of comparing ourselves to others and feeling like we're not doing enough or measuring up. But remember that God has a unique plan for each of us, and He delights in our faithfulness, not our perfection.

8. Lean on the Lord for strength.

Finally, when we feel like we can't keep going, when we're tired or discouraged or overwhelmed, we can turn to our Heavenly Father for strength and comfort. He is our rock and our refuge, and He promises to be with us every step of the way.

SHE'S DEEPLY DEVOTED TO HER LOVED ONES

As I began writing this chapter, I was warmly reminded of Job. We all know him as a patient and resilient man, whose faith was tested beyond what most could endure. What we don't hear as often is what a loving and attentive father he was.

In Job Chapter 1, we read how he lost his animals, his servants, and his children all in one night. What did Job do after hearing the news?

Job was deeply devoted to his children and took great care to ensure their safety and well-being. He worked hard to provide for his family and to manage his affairs with wisdom and integrity. The Bible tells us that he would rise early in the morning to offer sacrifices on their behalf just in case they had sinned or cursed God in their hearts.

How did Job demonstrate his diligence in managing his household?

His example reminds us how important it is to pray for our children and to intercede for our loved ones. I can only imagine the challenges and temptations our children are facing today, so we have a responsibility as parents, as grandparents, and as members of the body of Christ to cover our children in prayer. We can pray for their safety, their health, and well-being, as well as their spiritual growth and development. In the same way, we have the opportunity to lift up our husbands in prayer, asking God to give them wisdom, discernment, and a deep hunger to follow His will.

In Ephesians 6:12, we are reminded that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

In Job Chapter 31, Job says, "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman." How can we apply this principle in our own lives to cultivate purity and self-control? More specifically, how can you apply this to your life and the temptations you struggle with?

We learn a lot about Job's character in Chapter 31. Make a list of the qualities or traits you find in that chapter.

A P31 Woman is the heart of the home, as she brings warmth and comfort to all who dwell within its four walls. From the moment her children are born, she guides their hearts, and guards their young spirits.

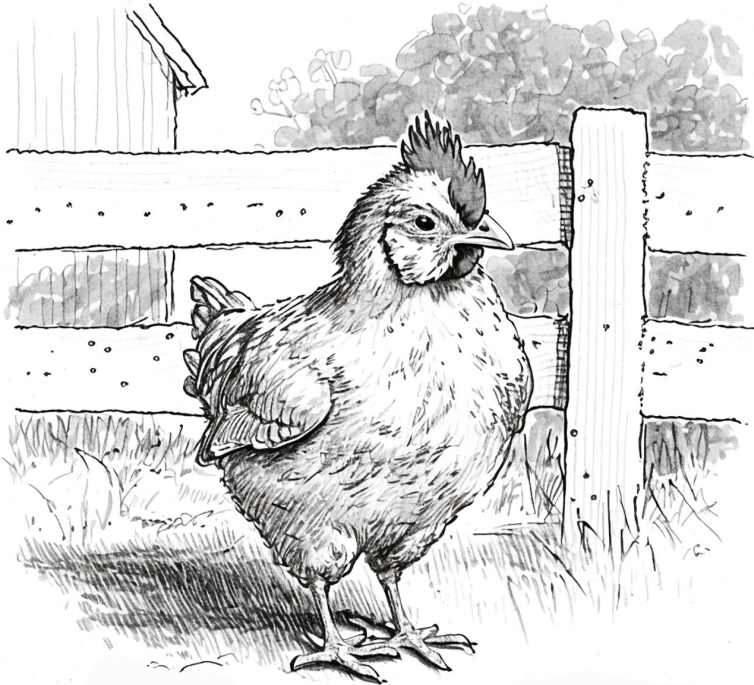
As she watches over her home, she tends to its needs with unwavering care, creating an atmosphere of love and acceptance where all are welcome and loved. Her touch can be felt in every

detail, from the way she arranges the furniture to the meals she prepares for her family.

But her role is not just about the physical tasks of maintaining a home. It is also about creating a sense of belonging and security for her family. She provides a safe haven where her children can grow and flourish, where they can be themselves and explore the world around them.

She shapes the hearts and minds of her children, instilling in them a love for God's truth that will guide them throughout life.

In the end, her home is a reflection of her love. A sanctuary of warmth and peace, a place where her family can find solace and comfort. Her presence is felt in every corner, while her love brings joy and light to all who dwell within.





The P31 Challenge

As you reflect on this chapter, can you think of any areas of your life that you need to give more diligence to?

What are some practical steps you can take to prioritize the needs of your family and your household?
