



Lent Day 24, March 16, 2012, Ways of Your Household

*Strength and honor are her clothing;
She shall rejoice in time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And on her tongue is the law of kindness.
She watches over the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed;
Her husband also, and he praises her:
Proverbs 31:25-28*

I know that many of us have looked enviously at the Proverbs 31 woman, seriously doubting that we could ever live up to the standard she set. But you know, with Jesus there is always hope! We can always learn a new skill or trade.

What stands out about this woman is, well, everything. She seems to have every area of her household under control. She cooks, she makes and sells merchandise, she plants, she helps the poor, she makes her family's clothing, she is an excellent wife and mother, and she is wise. Wow! I should also point out that she has some maidservants to help her.

As I reflect on all the things that she does and directs, one thing must be a reality to successfully do all of this. She must have a very organized home. That's where I'd like to park for a little while today.

In our study this week on the topic of simplicity, I think that learning how to have an organized home would greatly aid us in the pursuit of simplicity. It's hard to live in simplicity when clutter is your companion and looking for lost items steals your time and peace. Before I go on, I should be honest about this. I have three sisters. Two of us got the organizing gene, and two of us not so much. I fall into the not so much category, and actually square into the clutter-bug category. My journey to having an organized home is one that I've made progress with over the years, but I still have to fight the clutter piles I accumulate in certain areas of my home. How I envy my three sisters with their big Michigan basements! If only I had one of those ... sigh.

However, no excuses. We have what we have and have to live with what we have. One thing we can all do is to begin to go through our homes, pile by pile, room by room, clearing out what we don't need and putting away what we do. I know from experience that when my home is clear of clutter, my soul feels more at peace. It's just easier for me to connect with God when I am not distracted by piles of clutter when I am supposed to be praying.

Application: You probably know what's coming. In the next few days, we need to pick one spot and start de-cluttering it. Two great resources to help you with this are these two ladies and their websites:

Marla Cilley, known as the Fly Lady at <http://www.flylady.net/>

Stephanie Buckwalter of Kamikaze Cleaning at http://busyhomemaker.com/?page_id=24

Check them out and see which option will work best for you. As we begin to declutter our homes, I think our hearts will also breathe a sigh of relief. A lifestyle of simplicity can help us better connect with the Lord.

Prayer: Lord,

I pray for the help I need to declutter my home. Show me where to start, and help me to stick with it bit by bit until I reach my goal. As I create space, order, and peace in my home, please create the same qualities in my heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.