

**FIRST READING – PROVERBS 31: 10-17, 20, 25-26**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS.**

WHEN ONE FINDS A WORTHY WIFE, HER VALUE IS FAR BEYOND PEARLS.  
HER HUSBAND, ENTRUSTING HIS HEART TO HER, HAS AN UNFAILING  
PRIZE.

SHE BRINGS HIM GOOD, AND NOT EVIL ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE.

SHE OBTAINS WOOL AND FLAX AND MAKES CLOTH WITH SKILLFUL  
HANDS.

LIKE MERCHANT SHIPS, SHE SECURES PER PROVISIONS FROM AFAR.  
SHE RISES WHILE IT IS STILL NIGHT, AND DISTRIBUTES FOOD FOR HER  
HOUSEHOLD. SHE PICKS OUT A FIELD TO PURCHASE; OUT OF HER  
EARNINGS SHE PLANTS A VINEYARD.

SHE IS GIRT ABOUT WITH STRENGTH, AND STURDY ARE HER ARMS.  
SHE REACHES OUT HER HANDS TO THE POOR AND EXTENDS HER ARMS TO  
THE NEEDY.

SHE IS CLOTHED WITH STRENGTH AND DIGNITY, AND SHE LAUGHS AT THE  
DAYS TO COME.

SHE OPENS HER MOUTH IN WISDOM, AND ON HER TONGUE IS KINDLY  
COUNSEL.

HER CHILDREN RISE UP AND PRAISE HER; HER HUSBAND, TOO, EXTOLS  
HER: "MANY ARE THE WOMEN OF PROVEN WORTH. BUT YOU HAVE  
EXCELLED THEM ALL."

CHARM IS DECEPTIVE AND BEAUTY FLEETING;  
THE WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD IS TO BE PRAISED.  
GIVE HER A REWARD FOR HER LABORS,  
AND LET HER WORKS PRAISE HER AT THE CITY GATES.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.