

Reaching Out

"She opens her hands to the poor. Yes, she reaches out her filled hands to the needy [whether in body, mind or spirit]." Proverbs 31:20 Amplified



Number 20 in the series "God's Virtuous Woman"

When we read the whole context of this scripture, we see that this lady led a very busy life. However, her life was in godly order. Verse 30 tells us that she reverently worships and fears the Lord, so we see that God was first in her life. We see that her husband, children and home came next. She did not neglect her time with God, nor did she neglect her husband, children and home responsibilities to help the poor and needy. However, because she had her priorities in order, she had time, compassion and resources to reach out to others.

As a new Christian many years ago, I decided to follow this lady's example. First priority in my life daily is time with Jesus reading and applying His Word and prayer. Next is ministering to the needs of my husband. Richard has struggling with some health problems for several years now. So I have studied and learned about nutrition, cooking and eating healthy foods, and we have seen great changes. He also has a new position at work and is under a lot of stress. So I listen, encourage and help him in whatever ways I can. Most important of all is my prayer time for him.

Reaching out to the poor in spirit, soul and body within our own families should come before ministering outside to others. Jesus has done a great work in forgiving, cleansing, healing and restoration in Richard and me as individuals, as well as in our marriage, so that our hearts and hands are open and full, as we reach out to

help others. Because we have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit to change our lives as we read and applied God's Word, we have the faith and confidence to teach and disciple others.

Through God's amazing grace Jesus has empowered us to reach out to the single mothers, to adult singles, widows and draw them into our family. We also spent five years reaching out to those in prison. In the U.S. and other countries, it has been our joy to reach out and to teach God's Word at retreats, marriage seminars, and on military bases, to young and old, small home groups, large gatherings and one-on-one discipleship. As we have taught the truths of God's Word, we have seen the power of the Holy Spirit save the lost, restore broken families and free people from sinful addictions. Also we have seen people get out of debt, and we have seen people in bondage to depression get set free.

Can I encourage you to let Jesus daily reach out and touch you and your family, and then you reach out and help others around about you? I praise God for all of you who already do this, and I encourage you to keep up the good work.

— Janice McBride

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