

## The New Heart and the Wise Woman

*Proverbs 30:11–17; Ezekiel 36:25–28; Proverbs 31*

### **Big Idea:**

The rebellious heart says, “Give, give,” and brings destruction to others and to itself; but in Christ, God gives a new heart, so that wisdom may be received, embodied, and passed on in the household and in the church.

### **I. The Heart That Rebels and Devours**

#### **Proverbs 30:11–17**

A. Proverbs 30:11–14 describes a downward movement of the fallen heart.

1. It begins with dishonor in the household: cursing father and refusing to bless mother.
2. It becomes self-deception: “clean in their own eyes,” but not washed.
3. It grows into pride: lofty eyes and raised eyelids.
4. It ends in oppression: teeth like swords, devouring the poor and needy.

B. Proverbs 30:15–16 reveals the root: the insatiable heart.

1. “The leech has two daughters: Give and Give.”
2. The fallen heart receives life not as gift, but as entitlement.
3. Rebellion against parents is finally rebellion against God’s order and goodness.

C. Proverbs 30:17 shows the end of rebellion.

1. The one who devours others is finally devoured.
2. Rebellion destroys others and ultimately destroys the rebel himself.

## **II. The Heart That God Gives**

### **Ezekiel 36:25–28**

A. The heart of Proverbs 30 cannot be healed by human wisdom alone.

1. Parents can teach, warn, discipline, and love.
2. But parents cannot give their children new hearts.
3. Wisdom can show the way, but grace must give the heart to walk in it.

B. God promises to do what we cannot do.

1. “I will sprinkle clean water on you.”
2. “I will give you a new heart.”
3. “I will put my Spirit within you.”
4. “I will cause you to walk in my statutes.”

C. This promise is fulfilled in Christ.

1. Jesus died for our rebellion against God.
2. By his death and resurrection, he purchases the new birth for his people.
3. By his Spirit, he replaces hearts of stone with hearts of flesh.

### **III. The Wisdom That Flows from a Renewed Heart**

#### **Proverbs 31**

A. Proverbs is framed by parental wisdom.

1. Proverbs 1-9 emphasizes the father's instruction to his son.
2. Proverbs 31 closes with a mother's instruction to her son.
3. Both fatherly and motherly wisdom are gifts from God for the formation of the household.

B. Lemuel's mother teaches wisdom to a king.

#### **Proverbs 31:1–9**

1. She reminds him that his life is received, not self-made.
2. She warns him not to give his strength to appetite.
3. She teaches him to use power for the poor and needy.

C. The excellent wife embodies wisdom in the household.

#### **Proverbs 31:10–31**

1. She is not a crushing checklist for women.
2. She is a picture of wisdom shaped by the fear of the Lord.
3. Her mouth speaks wisdom; her hands serve; her life strengthens her household.

### **IV. The Wisdom God Gives Through Women in Christ**

A. Women in Christ are called to receive and extend wisdom.

1. To children: "Train up a child in the way he should go."

#### **Proverbs 22:6**

2. To husbands and households: the wise woman builds and strengthens the home.

**Proverbs 31:10–31**

3. To younger women: older women teach what is good.

**Titus 2:3–5**

B. This wisdom is not limited to married women or mothers.

1. All women in Christ are called to fear the Lord.
2. All women in Christ may strengthen the household of God.
3. God gives women a real ministry of wisdom as mothers, wives, sisters, and mentors.

C. But women are not saviors.

1. Mothers cannot regenerate their children.
2. Wives cannot save their husbands.
3. Mentors cannot create spiritual life.
4. Only God gives the new heart.

## **Closing Truth**

The household is built by wisdom, but wisdom is received, embodied, and sustained only by grace. So we honor the wise women God has given us, and we ask him for what only he can give: clean hearts, new spirits, and the Holy Spirit within us.