

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

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Think on these things...

Philippians 4:8-9

WHAT IS NOBLE?

Desiring to be among the first to hear and report the news, hundreds of reporters camped out for weeks. Great anticipation preceded the birth of the royal baby. Prince William and Kate's first child arrived on July 22, 2013. Third in line for the throne of England, he is the son of a prince and a commoner. Titles and social status remain a large force in Great Britain's culture. The lives of the royals and nobles of England enthrall many Americans still as demonstrated by the interest and high ratings for the PBS Series Downton Abbey.

What makes one royal? In England royals are born into their title. For those born again in Christ I Peter 3:9 says, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." We, as Christians, are royals in the realm of an almighty God. How awesome is that?

Nobles are born into titled families as well. On occasion, a sovereign's decree

makes one noble for some service to their kingdom. Continuing the theme from Philippians 4:8-9, Paul commands Christians to think on things that are noble. But just what does that mean? Noble, a word not commonly used today, means well-known. An adjective, Webster's New World Dictionary describes noble as one who has eminence, dignity, or fame and is associated with having or showing high moral qualities or ideals. Today we rarely see high moral qualities and ideals praised especially among those of royal and noble birth. The news seems to focus on the sensational and tawdry. In Proverbs 12:4 King Solomon says, "A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones." This verse reveals quite an oppositional contrast between noble and disgraceful.

A second passage from Proverbs 31 sheds more light on the meaning of noble in reference to a wife's character. Solomon introduces the sayings of King Lemuel which were taught to him by his mother. Some believe King Lemuel was really King Solomon and that the oracle

he learned was from his mother, Bathsheba. Whoever King Lemuel was, his mother's advice was for his good and benefit. She asks of her son, the king, "A wife of noble character who can find?" She wants the king to **think** about what it means to have a noble wife and partner in life. She goes on to say, "She is worth far more than rubies." Rubies, one of only four precious stones, and noble wives are beautiful and rare treasures to find and keep.

Most of us have seen rubies, but what does a noble wife look like? Proverbs 31:11-31 describes her as fully **trustworthy**. Proverbs says, "Her husband has full confidence in her." No doubts assail him as to her intentions. He knows she has his best interests and those of their family at heart "all the days of her life." Her husband has no worry that she will be there or doubt about her skill to manage her household. Because of her **faithful** character, her husband "lacks nothing of value." Prepared for the day and the future, her pantry is full and her closets hold clothing for all seasons. A **smart** consumer and business woman, she considers a field and buys it. The noble wife is **intelligent** and **sensible**. She wisely invests and makes a profit from her labors. **Industrious** and **diligent** describe her work ethic. She gets up early and works late to make sure to provide for her family and those hired to serve in her household. She manages employees well. In Proverbs 31:17 we read, "Her arms are **strong** for her tasks." implying that she keeps her body fit for the work she must do. **Compassionate**,

unselfish and **generous**, she provides for the poor and needy. **Wise** and **faithful** in instruction, she **teaches with skill**. She knows her role and as a **manager**, "watches over the affairs of her household." **Dignified**, **brave**, and **optimistic**, she looks cheerfully and **with confidence to the future**. The noble wife receives praise from her husband and children, and yes, even from the community at the city gates. **Honorable**, those who know her give her praise.

For men seeking a noble wife, these scriptures give an excellent listing of the characteristics of a noble mate. Mothers, you have the opportunity to teach your sons as King Lemuel's mother did how to select a noble bride. For the single woman seeking to become a noble wife or those already married, read again Proverbs 31 considering these verses as a standard in living nobly.

Today, we all have the opportunity to be noble by acting nobly. The characteristics and values of the noble wife are ones everyone can develop and display with time, practice, and prayer. Highly valued, desired, and sought after, the ruby and the noble wife shine bright in our world. May God bless you and guide you in His service as you think on these noble things.

Robin Robbins House

Quotations are from the NIV Bible



DID YOU KNOW?

What king of Israel was an armor bearer for King Saul?

What one household was saved when Joshua captured Jericho?

David's calvary rode on what animal?

Who succeeded Moses as the leader of the Israelites?

What instrument did David play?

Who said the word of God was living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword?

Who met the angel of the Lord under the oak in Ophrah?

How did the walls of Jericho fall and which direction?

Who prophesied about the "Prince of Peace"?

RECIPES

MEXICAN CHICKEN

- 3 cups crushed tortilla chips
- 1 roasted chicken cooked and cut into bite size pieces
- 1 can (15 oz) garbanzo beans, drained
- 1 can (15 oz) kidney beans, drained
- 1 can (15 oz) corn, drained
- 1 can (6 oz) tomato paste
- 1 cup salsa
- 1 cup red onion chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- 8 oz shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 8 oz shredded Monterey Jack cheese



Spread chips over the bottom of a greased 9X 13 baking dish. Combine chicken and all other ingredients except cheese in a bowl and mix well. Spoon half of the mixture over crushed tortilla chips. Mix cheeses together and spread 1/2 over the chicken mixture. Top with remaining chicken mixture followed by the remaining cheese on top. Bake 25 minutes at 325 or until cheese is melted and ingredients are hot. Top with chopped tomatoes, sour cream, and additional chopped cilantro if desired. Serves 10.

FOR SINGLE SERVINGS - Keep meat and vegetable mixture separate from cheese and chips. Make single serve portions by crushing a few chips in the bottom of a cereal bowl followed by the portion of chicken mixture you want and top with grated cheese. This cooks/heats up in about 2 minutes in the microwave on high power.

Please feel free to submit recipes, positive quotes, comments, etc. to
The Good News Gazette at thegoodnewsgazette1@gmail.com

The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets. From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.”
Psalm 50:1-2

