



## **Beautiful** – Week 2

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David Brown

We've spent the last few weeks talking about women and their beauty and what it means and doesn't mean. Last week the scripture that we used talked about the king is enthralled in your beauty as a woman, the creator is enthralled with your beauty. Now, I know a lot of you left that day thinking, *"Right, if the kings enthralled with my beauty then how come my husband never notices it?"* And some of you single ladies are thinking, *"Yeah, I've got a line of people enthralled with my beauty, waiting to ask me out."* So today we want to talk about together one of the things that maybe standing in your way of people seeing your beauty. I want you for a moment to consider with me, your biggest obstacle to other people seeing your beauty may be you. It may be you. Now, I know that when we start talking about women...it's already happening...the sermon has gotten out and people know about it and apparently it's okay to bash men but when you start talking about women's character flaws, it gets dangerous. I even had one of our praise team want me put an asterisk on it and say that yelling at your husband about driving badly is okay. NO! Today we're going to talk about possibly the reason that your husband doesn't see the beauty in you and the reason others don't see your beauty is...you. Never underestimate character. Never underestimate what's inside. We've all seen some people who on the outside were very beautiful but once you've gotten to know them and then what happens? We've also seen people who really didn't catch your eye until you got to know them and then they were incredibly beautiful. I want you to understand that our culture really looks at the outside and judges whether someone is attractive or not from the way they look on the outside. But God has created us so that the beauty in all of us, not just women, doesn't just come from the outside appearance; it comes from deep from within and if there is a character flaw in your life, it may be keeping people from seeing the beauty that's in you. In Proverbs 31, I know you church people as soon as I say Proverbs 31 all the women are like, *"OH NO! Not here! I can't stand that girl! Because every Mother's day the pastor brings out Proverbs 31 and talks about this unbelievable women who gets up in the dark and makes breakfast and irons all the clothes and repairs all the socks and gets her family off and then goes to the workplace and brings home money and then stays up late at night making a quilt. I hate that woman! Please don't preach on her!"* Because a lot of you leave feeling defeated and horrible...so I promise you, I'm not going to preach on the whole passage, just one verse. I want you to see this one verse in Proverbs 31:10, *"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies."* I want us to see where this worth comes from. I want us to see where this beauty lies and it's in the character of a person. This verse doesn't say a wife of

beautiful stature who can find. It doesn't say a wife with a slim figure who can find. It doesn't say a wife that makes a lot of money who can find. It's a wife of noble character.

Today we want to discuss that character and since we're looking at a noble wife, we're going to use **W-I-F-E**. The first thing that I want you to evaluate today in your character is the **W**ords that you use. The way that you speak; out of your mouth comes the overflow of your heart according to Luke 6:45. He says *"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."* What comes out of your mouth is what is in your heart so the first character today is...what kind of words do you use? Listen, if you're a single guy in here and you're going out with a girl who talks bad about everybody or talks down to her friends, her roommate, or her parents, I just want to warn you now...you better run, because there is a character flaw in someone who is always talking down to people. There is a character flaw in someone who is always criticize people because you find in their heart a pride that is going to make them fall. They think you are better than other people. So if you have a woman who talks down to people, there is something wrong with their character. Now, so I ask you, what do you talk about? Do you talk about folks? I want to give you a heads up real quickly...if your friend talks about other people when your there...guess who they talk about when you're not there? *"Oh, no...not my friend, we're tight."* Let me tell you, if your friend talks about other people when you're there, as soon as you leave there going to be talking about you. If that is in your nature, there is a flaw in your character that you need to work on. As we talk about words and we talk about wives, I want to ask you two questions. First of all, how do you talk to your husband? Do you talk down to your husband? Do you criticize your husband? Do you put him down? You see, a man for some reason, needs respect. It's in our nature. We need to be respected, we need to be admired. It's just part of who God made us. So if you're married to someone who puts you down and criticizes you, you haven't found that wife of noble character have you? In fact the verse says it this way, in Proverbs 12:4, *"A wife of noble character"* (once again the character) *"is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones."* So, ladies this is saying for your husband, you can be a crown or you can be a cancer. You can be something that lifts him up and makes him feel important and special or you can destroy with the words that you use. How do you talk to your husband? What do you say to him? Let me let you know this quickly, if you are woman who raises her voice, or you have a tendency to yell at your husband when you're angry or upset, when you're hurt; for whatever the reason, let me tell you what happens when you yell at your husband...you put that man in a no win situation. Let me explain that to you. Men bring strength to a marriage, that's what we're for, to bring security. Women bring beauty and nurturing. For a man to be strong when you get screamed at, to be a man you must do what? Stand up. You don't get talk to like that. Some men, if another man talked to you like your wife talked to you...you'd be out in the parking lot. But the problem is, in a marriage, when the woman screams at the man and the man screams back; it's considered emotionally abusive. You run and tell all your friends that your husband is emotionally abusive. *"He screams at me."* And you're right. But then if he doesn't scream and he just remains quiet; wow, he's a passive man that you can't respect. He's not a real man. Do you see the dilemma you put your husband in when you scream at him? He can't bow up, he can't get in your face, he can't yell

back because that's abuse. Also, if he remains silent he's passive. So ladies, I know some of you are emotional and you have this need to get your point across. But when you yell at your husband, you're putting him in a lose-lose situation. So understand that from the very beginning.

Another thing you do as women that you really need to look at in your character is because it's a problem and it's not all women, not a godly woman. Let me give you an example. Let's say your husband goes out in the morning and does something really stupid. Now, I know that's a stretch for most of your husband's but let say he does something really stupid it really ticked you off. And I mean the world knows you're ticked off. You take your kids to school and the crossing guard knows your ticked off, your kids are scared to come home, your dog runs away and you can't find him, plants are literally wilting when you walk by because of the anger radiating from you and your poor husband walks in the house and in all of his ignorance notices something may be wrong (it's takes us awhile) but he notices something may be wrong because you're clanging pots and pans, you're not talking and your throwing things...we get it...even though it takes awhile. And then your husband puts himself out there and walks up and says, *"Honey, is there something wrong?"* And what do you say? *"Nothing."* Do you know what that is? It's lying. Plain and simple; if something's wrong and your husband asks you and you say there's nothing wrong; you're a liar. That's not godly. The Bible says that Satan is the father of all lies so if you're lying to your husband at that moment, you're a liar. You're saying *"Oh no, I just want him to pursue me, I want to make sure he really cares."* Oh...so you're a manipulative liar. That's so much better! Thanks for clearing that up. I feel so much better knowing you're a manipulative liar and not just a plain old liar. If there is something wrong in your marriage and your husband has done something to hurt you or he has done something that has made you feel devalued, anything...you need to be able to put into word and tell him what has gone on. And don't yell at him, just talk. So when he says, *"Honey, is there something wrong?"* You say, *"Yes, there is and we really need to talk about it and I am not going to say this to hurt your feelings but you need to know."* Talk. I know some of you women are "stuffers" so you hold it all in. You're going to kill yourself; you're just going to blow up. So learn to talk to your husband and not at him.

The second question with your words is how do you talk about him? When it's just the girls; how do you talk about him? As a preacher I sometimes get invited to lead at women's bible study's...wow! It should be called who has the worst husband study. *"You won't believe what my husband did!"* *"Well, that's nothing, the other day my husband..."* and I am like, *"Oh my gosh! You guys have horrible husbands! I am a great husband!"* Of course my wife's not there. I want to know how you talk about your husband when you're in a group of people because the Bible tells us here in Proverbs 12:20 *"Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down."* You see when you talk to your friends about how horrible your husband is...you're just stoking the fire. You're just getting yourself madder and madder and let me tell you, your friends are not the ones that are going to make your marriage better. Your friends are not the people who will make your marriage strong. You have got to talk about your problem with your husband. Don't tell all your friends. I know some of you are saying, *"You know I don't really talk about my husband but everybody talks to me about their husbands and I*

*am just a good listener.*" No...you're a garbage collector. You see Tuesday mornings when I take my garbage out, I don't take it and spread it on my neighbor's yard and expect them to pick it up. I put it on the curb and I expect the trash men to pick it up. So if you're a person that everyone comes to and tells you how bad their husband is; that's because you collect trash and you need to put a stop to it. It doesn't help. You say, "Well I'm just venting." Venting doesn't do anything but get you madder. Go to the source. How do you talk about your husband? How do you talk to your kids about your husband? I want some of you to hear me because your six year old is not a marriage counselor. When you're mad at your husband, you don't need to tell your six year old the dumb things his daddy has done that day. That's not why God gave them to you. I saw this all the time as a youth minister, especially in divorced families and I am not picking on divorced families because it happens in all families, but I would see it in divorced families in particular where there is a divorce and there's hurt and I am not disagreeing; your husband may have been the sorriest, no good person in the entire world; he probably was, but...that child doesn't need to hear that. This is what I would see from a child who was four years old; he's told how worthless his father is; how horrible his father was; what a bad man his father is and then when he's fourteen years old they want the father to come back in and get control and discipline him and for ten years they have been programmed not to respect that man and then you want him to come in to a place of authority when you've taught them that he's worthless. Hey, that happens in marriage too. Don't talk to your kids about your husband's bad faults and bad qualities. Lift up your husband in the eyes of those kids because they are going to need to respect him one day. They're going to need to go to him; you're going to need him to step up and discipline when that boy hits seventeen years old. You're not going to be able to do it and if he has not learned respect from you for that man; he's not going to be able to do it either. Listen guys, we're at a big disadvantage. If your kids watch TV, every man in here is at a disadvantage. You name a sitcom and the dad is a moron. Is that not true? Every man is a moron; every dad is an idiot and the mother is the problem solver. So we are training our generation of kids to see that the dad is useless and the mother is the answer and you are buying into that philosophy and you're teaching your kids the same thing. How do you speak to your kids about your husband? What do you say?

The next letter is I – Intentionality. In a marriage, the wife of noble character intentionally connects to the husband. They get out there and they do the things the husband wants them to do. You get involved with the husbands likes and dislikes. It seems to me a lot of times that the women will drag their husbands to the mall and to programs that the husbands don't really want to be a part of and you go because your wife really wants you to, but then if you suggested the wife come and watch you play softball, the wife looks at you and says that softball is stupid. My daughter is about to get married and she told me that she drives around in the golf cart with her finance while he plays golf. She reads a magazine while he drives around. I heard that and thought what women would do that? Let me tell you what kind of women would do that...a woman who is interested in her husband. So today I want you to be intentional about being with your husbands and doing the things that he enjoys and connecting to him where he is. Listen, there is nothing sexier than a woman who watches football and understands it. Now I'm not saying a woman who watches's it and says stupid stuff, I mean a woman who sits there and understand it. That's something that they can do

together. Would it hurt you today to be intentional to go home and look at your husband and say, *"What is your biggest need? What is it that you want me...?"* We have a very strange church; I saw exactly where that went as soon as I started. Every one of the women is like....*"Oh no...here we go! Ask my husband what his greatest need is??? Do I have to ask?"* Probably not! But is something wrong with that? I mean, can't you be intentional in that area too? We had a verse a couple weeks ago, *"May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love."* Proverbs 5:18-19 and we've got a lot of kids in here so I am not going to read it, but you read that verse and it's okay for that to be the guys greatest need. God's okay with that and a God honoring wife will sit down and ask *"What is your greatest need? What do you want me to do with you?"* The men like this part of the sermon! Be intentional.

There's another step in being a wife of noble character and it's Forgiveness. A lot of women need to develop a willingness to forgive. I am very fortunate that I married a woman that forgiveness was in her very nature. She has a spiritual gift of mercy and it's a good thing because if you listed all the stupid things I've done to hurt her and the times that I have taken advantage and said dumb things and broke her, if you wrote all those down it would be amazing how many times I've done that. But she has the ability to forgive. Now my wife also has the ability to forgive and never bring it up again. A lot of the women that I see on a regular basis in counseling do not. In fact, that is probably the number one problem in marriage counseling for women. For men, it's pride. *"I'm not telling anyone my problems. We can handle this ourselves."* But for women, it's forgiveness and you need to understand that women's minds are built totally different than ours. Your mind is a complicated thing; it's a strange thing to behold. I think what it is...a women's brain is all connected. A thought comes in and it goes through all these little chambers and everything gets brought up...I've watched it before and I am amazed by it. I've listened to my wife's string of conversations and it started out that we're going to the mall and then next thing it becomes is a list of things for the wedding. I'm thinking, *"How did we get here?! On my birthday!"* We're going out for my birthday and we end up at the freaking mall looking at wedding dresses...how does that happen? I'm walking through the store wondering how did this happen? We were going out to eat; because in a woman's mind, everything is connected and flows together. Let me be honest with you...guys are not built like that. We got one thought at a time. It comes and it goes. Food, sex, sport and we're out! Thank God! For women though, that complicated mind works to your disadvantage, because you're driving down the road and you see a billboard and that billboard reminds you that you have a birthday coming up which reminds you that three years ago your husband forgot your birthday which reminds you that your husband is a no good, sorry good for nothing...and all of a sudden you're angry at your husband for something that happened three years ago because that complicated mind wound itself around and you have all those emotions again built back up. Your poor husband is sitting at home doesn't even know what happened. You went out to get Chinese and you come back angry. *"Did somebody do something to you?" "You did! Three years ago...remember!" "Honey, I don't remember what I had for breakfast. I thought about sports a minute ago, I'm thinking about sex right now; I guess that's a no."* Forgiveness, you have to learn to forgive. Ladies you have to let things go

and let it out of your system. And you know once you forgive, it needs to be over. Here's the thing with forgiveness...forgiveness is given over and over and over because every time it wraps back up in your mind and you get those emotions, you've got to let it go. Let me tell you, you don't have to tell your husband you did that..."*Oh by the way, I forgave you for what you did when we first got married.*" You don't have to do that. We have good friends and they got in a big fight going on one night and he was telling me about it the next day and of course he was right. He told me the next day after this big fight they went to bed angry, which you're not supposed to do and the next morning they woke up and the wife looked at him and said, "*I choose to forgive you.*" To which my friend replied, "*I didn't ask.*" It was a godly thing for her to choose to forgive; but it wasn't real wise to mention it. She could have left it alone and forgave. So ladies that is what I am asking you to do in your marriage. To be that noble wife of character you're going to have to forgive and let it go.

And finally I want to end with Expectations because some of you have expectations that no man could meet. Some of you have expectations of what God needs to do in your husband and I hear it all the time. "*If my husband would just be the spiritual leader in my home...if my husband would just take the initiative...if my husband had a better job...if my husband would just mow the grass.*" And today I want to challenge you to stop looking at what God needs to do in your husband and take a look and see what God needs to do in you. Stop worrying about changing him and allow God to change you. A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. I have never met a man who changed because his wife nagged him. Because, we may be slow but we're stubborn. I've seen him be miserable. In fact, Solomon had 700 wives. Is that brain damage? This is what he wrote about them... Proverbs 19:13. This is God's word, don't you be giving me credit for this. "*A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.*" Did you hear what he just said? A nagging wife is like water torture. You live with a nagging wife and it's like they've tied you down and are dripping water on your head! Some of you are living your life expecting God to change your husband and you think that God wants to use you to nag him to the point he changes so today I want to challenge you. He goes on and once again; word of God Proverbs 21:9. "*Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.*" So you go home today and see a guy with a tent up on the top of the house and you're like..."*There you go!*" He'd rather live in a tent on the roof than be down there with the nagging wife. But I love it because ten verses later in Proverbs 21:19 he says no scratch that... "*Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.*" I'd rather live where there's no water and no shade and I am about to die of thirst than to live with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife. So today, I want to challenge the women to be of noble character and to let your words reflect the grace and mercy God has given. To be intentional about meeting your husband's needs and being there for him and offering forgiveness maybe even though he didn't ask and to expect God not to change him but to change you. As you hold the mirror up today I want you to look past the appearance and I want God to shine a light in your heart. Is there anything in your character today that God wants to change? You change it and you'll change your marriage.