

A script from



“Designs By Sophia, The Proverbs 31 Woman”

by
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- What** Melissa and Karen are compare their perceived inadequacies as wives and mothers until they are confronted by an unlikely source. **Themes:** Women, Mothers, Righteousness, Insecurity, Comparing, Mothers, Mother’s Day
- Who** Melissa
Karen
Sophia (the “Proverbs 31 Woman”)
- When** Present day
- Wear (Props)** All three characters wear sneakers and running/walking clothes.
Props needed: two long benches or 3-4 chairs to give the suggestion of back-to-back park benches.
- Why** Proverbs 31:10-31
- How** Position two benches back-to-back, angled so that all actors can be seen from the audience. Melissa and Karen face one way, while Sophia faces the other way. Play up the contrast between the Melissa/Karen dialogue (dry, quick, self-deprecating) and Sophia’s admonition (confident, gracious). Keep it light-hearted in tone. The occasionally repeated “Erghhhh” is a bit of a growl and should sound, comically, a little like an animal aware of the presence of an enemy.
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

Position two benches back-to-back, angled so that all actors can be seen from the audience. **Melissa** and **Karen** face one way, while **Sophia** faces the other way.

Melissa: I'm telling you, that's *her*. She's right behind you.

Karen: Her? (*Sneaks a look behind her*) That's our nemesis? She just told someone her name was Sophia.

Melissa: She told someone else her name was Wisdom. And that market vendor just called her Prudence. Trust me—it's her.

Both: The Proverbs 31 Woman. (*Each looks away*) Erghhhhhh.

Melissa: I really don't like her.

Karen: Me either.

Melissa: You know how they say to read a chapter of Proverbs for each day of the month?

Karen: Uh huh. I lo-ooove those months with thirty days.

Melissa: Yup. September, June... I'm feeling pretty good about myself.

Karen: Exactly. But then you turn the page...

Melissa: ...or you turn around...

Karen: -and it's her.

Both: Erghhhhhh.

Melissa: If you ask me, she brings it on herself. You can't be that perfect without repercussions. I mean, what normal person has time to make their clothing from scratch?

Karen: (*Sarcastic*) Speak for yourself. Whenever my kids need something new, I whip out the old wheel and distaff.

Melissa: Don't you wish!

Karen: No, I know what you mean. Like it says she brings her family "food from afar." I'm thinking, if "Afar" is the name of a pizza takeout, I can do it too.

Melissa: Oh! Thanks for the dinner idea.

Karen: And then, she gets up while it's still dark.

Melissa: I do that lots of nights-

Karen: *By choice.*

Melissa: Yeah, never mind.

Karen: And this is after working late the night before. I guess she has to, since she runs her own business.

Melissa: Which one? Designs by Sophia? Or the not-for-profit charity foundation?

Karen: Oh. Neither, I guess. I was thinking of the real estate stuff.

Melissa: There just aren't that many hours in my day.

Karen: Maybe that's because you sleep.

Melissa: That's debatable.

Karen: She gets up, starts her own work, and then wakes up the rest of the household. And she's happy. And kind.

Melissa: A physiological impossibility. Someone that sleep-deprived cannot be kind.

Karen: But you of all people wouldn't know that.

Melissa: Well, it also says she looks into the future and laughs. So maybe the sleep deprivation *does* get to her.

Karen: I laugh whenever I think about putting two teenagers through college.

Melissa: Doesn't count.

Karen: And just look at her. *(Both take what they believe to be a discreet look over their shoulders; she pretends not to notice)* She's got serious triceps.

Melissa: Well, it does say she "makes her arms strong."

Karen: No way. She still has time to WORK OUT?

Sophia: *(Standing up suddenly; startling Karen and Melissa)* Why are you doing this?

Melissa: Doing what?

Sophia: Comparing yourselves like that. Weighing my perceived strengths against your perceived weaknesses.

Karen: Um...why *do* we do that?

Melissa: Cause... it's what we do.

Sophia: Now it's my turn. Now *I'll* give you a description of the ideal woman.

Karen: I'm not sure I want to hear this...

Sophia: She fears the Lord.

Melissa: And...

Sophia: And what?

Karen: Your description has to be a little more thorough than that.

Sophia: Sisters, listen to me. Fear the Lord. Love Him above all else. Hear His words. And then do what He tells you.

Melissa: And...

Sophia: And what?

Karen: What about the other stuff?

Sophia: You want to know what all the "other stuff" is? Other stuff.

Melissa: But you've got to admit, the other stuff seems pretty important.

Karen: Especially when you're expected to do everything and be everything to everyone.

Sophia: I know it does. But your righteousness comes from the Son of God, not from the things you do. If you fear the Lord and not the opinions of people, your children will "rise up and call you blessed" no matter where you get your groceries or what time you get up in the morning. (**Melissa** and **Karen** each start to protest, but then stop as if convicted) Am I speaking Truth, or what?

Melissa: Maybe our priorities are a little off.

Karen: That's some good advice. I'm sorry we weren't so nice to you earlier.

Sophia: I know, and I understand where you're coming from. Why don't you come over for some tea, and I'll show you just how easy a spinning wheel is?

Karen: Wow. You have people over, impromptu, just like that?

Sophia: Well, I *do* pay my servants to keep house for me while I'm away.

Melissa: (To **Karen**) She has servants.

Karen: (To **Melissa**) She has servants.

Both: Erghhhhhh.

Sophia: Ladies? (Stands up and links arms with **Melissa** and **Karen**. Speaks the following line pleasantly) Get over it.

Exit all.

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