

# *She looketh well to the ways of her household*

By Amy Cook

*“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:9-10*

A few months ago I was approached by a Godly woman in our church asking me if I would be willing to be a mother's helper at her home. She has 5 children from ages 8 months to 11 years and needed some help around the house. I agreed and have been doing this ever since. Neither of us knew at the beginning what it would be like, but we learned together. ☺

Now, you may be asking, “What is a mother's helper?”. A mother's helper is simply what it sounds like - a younger girl who helps out by doing chores. I want to stress the point that a mother's helper is *not* a babysitter/daycare situation. I don't go over to the Smith's house as a maid so Mrs. Smith can have a job outside the home like so many women do today. I go over there to help her with her God-given calling – to be a Godly wife and mother at home. I am like an older daughter helping Mrs. Smith who doesn't have an older daughter yet. Mrs. Smith fulfills her role well, homeschooling the children, cooking the meals, keeping the house clean and other behind the scenes jobs. Yet occasionally this can get overwhelming. Shortly after I started, Mrs. Smith broke her arm, so that made her even more thankful for the extra help.

We read in Proverbs 31 about a Godly woman. She cared well for her children and husband, both physically and spiritually, she sewed, cooked, cleaned and we are told that she excelled above all other women. However, although she did all this and glorified God by doing it, the Bible says she had help. In verse 15, we read about how she fed her household *and her maidens*. God hasn't called mothers to an impossible task. He has raised up younger women – you and me – to help. This starts first with our own families and mothers, and then to “*do good unto all*” (Galatians 6:9-10).

This job as a mother's helper was not to take the place of my tasks at home, but to be an extra ministry opportunity. Before I go each Friday afternoon, I make sure my jobs at home are done. “Did I get my laundry done?” “How about cleaning my room and school work?” “What about my other jobs?” “*But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*” 1 Timothy 5:8. Although this is speaking primarily to Fathers and Mothers, we as young ladies can still learn from and apply this verse. I want to caution each of you, don't put ministry ahead of family! Ministry is good, yes, very good. But it is not our **highest** priority.

I have really enjoyed my time being a mother's helper! There are so many things I can learn from being with Mrs. Smith. She has a wonderful relationship with her Lord and is so selfless towards her children and husband. My role over there is not to take over for

the afternoon, but to do things right along with her. I suppose it is something like a “mothers apprentice”. Sometimes she goes to the grocery store or takes a rest, but usually she is working as hard, or harder than me! I’m not saying trips to the grocery store aren’t work; it is a lot easier without taking all five of her blessings along. I’m just saying I’m not working while she’s out shopping with friends and having fun. She goes right along fulfilling her calling God has given her and I’m there helping out.

Let me give you an example of an afternoon there. Of course, every one is different, but this will give you an idea of what it’s like. Last week I vacuumed the main room downstairs, the living room and her bedroom. I folded and put some laundry away, wiped a few windows, cleaned a tub, and cleaned out some dead ladybugs that had collected in the windowsills over the winter. (We have them too.) Cleaning out the ladybugs was actually not a bad job, I enjoyed it! ☺ Mrs. Smith did lots of cleaning upstairs too. While we work the children also do some jobs. Kevin cleaned out the car and did part of the bathroom. Danna did the other part of the bathroom and some other jobs also. Timothy emptied trashes and washed the dinning room chairs (I think). They all did other things too, I just can’t remember them. ☺

Although this is a “real job”, in that I get paid, there are other benefits too. Like seeing Mrs. Smith excited about all the work that got done, or building my friendship with Danna by talking while we fold laundry together. It’s not all boring over there (in fact, none of it is boring!). Funny things happen too, like finding out Timothy had been storing apple cores in his closet for a few months. ☺ Or when Matthew sits on the bed and tells me who’s laundry is who’s (this came in handy the first few weeks!).

Whether the Lord gives you the opportunity to be a mother’s helper some day, or whether He gives you a different assignment, remember 1 Corinthians 10:31 – *“Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* May this be our goal as we strive to become worthy daughters of our King!