

Now Listen to Your Wife

“When he [Pilate] was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, ‘Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him’”
Matthew 27:19.

Wives are truly **amazing**. A man, in a lifetime, never can quite figure his wife out. Any man who says he has women figured out is lying!

One amazing thing God has given man’s helpmeet is her ability to have insight into things that the husband may be blind to. Several instances of this phenomenon are given in Scripture. Instances can also be cited where men did not heed their wife’s advice and suffered the consequences – such as **Pilate**. His wife told him, *“Have thou nothing to do with that just man”* (Matthew 27:19). Truly, Christ was a just man. Truly, Pilate was wrong in condemning an innocent man to death. How history could have been changed for Pilate had he heeded his wife’s advice.

Another instance is **Rebekah** (Genesis 27). She perceived that God’s choice was her son, Jacob – not Esau. Her husband, Isaac, missed the point altogether and wanted to give the blessing to profane Esau. Rebekah also perceived that the Canaanite girls, those *“daughters of the land”* (v. 46), would be a disastrous choice for a wife for Jacob.

Abigail, the wife of Nabal, was noted as *“a woman of good understanding”* (I Samuel 25:3). She, with insight into the danger ahead, was able to appease the wrath of David and his army by her words of wisdom. She thus prevented the shedding of the blood of her churlish husband and of all his male servants. The Scripture says that mighty David *“hearkened”* to her voice and said, *“Blessed be thy advice”* (vs. 33, 35). Amazing!

It must be pointed out that not all wives give their husbands good advice. Some advice has been downright wicked, as was **Jezebel’s** counsel to King Ahab to murder Naboth so he could take possession of Naboth’s vineyard (I Kings 21). Or, how about treacherous **Herodias** telling her husband to imprison John the Baptist and later to behead him (Mark 6:14-29)? We also have in Scripture the instance of **Job’s wife**, who in an extreme state of emotional distress cried out to Job, *“Curse God and die!”* (Job 2:9).

How is a man to know if his wife is giving insightful advice or if she is just worrying or being emotional? First of all, let me say, a wise husband **always listens carefully** to his wife and takes her seriously. If her concern is only worry, he must seek to address the need that is prompting that worry. Further, when her advice **lines up with Scripture**, rather than contradicting it, he better take heed! Lastly, a wife’s advice, if it is good advice, will be motivated by a desire for the **welfare** of her husband and family. The virtuous woman *“openeth her mouth with wisdom...she looketh well to the ways of her household”* (Proverbs 31:26-27). Men, appreciate this treasure God has given you and listen to your wife.

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P.S. My wife told me to write this.