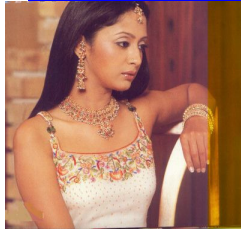


Dress up – wear your diamonds

[Deuteronomy 12:26-28 HCSB](#) 26 "But you are to take the holy offerings you have and your vow offerings and go to the place the LORD chooses. 27 Present the meat and blood of your burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD your God. The blood of your *other* sacrifices is to be poured out beside the altar of the LORD your God, but you may eat the meat. 28 Be careful to obey all these things I command you, so that you and your children after you may prosper forever, because you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

Picture of woman wearing diamonds http://i11.ebayimg.com/03/i/04/c0/32/75_1_sbl.JPG



When do women wear their jewelry? When they are trying to be attractive to their husband. When they are trying to be attractive to others (going out) in order to make him proud. In some cultures, the women are the walking family checking account. They wear the family finances.

Moses presented two different paths in life and two opposing outcomes making no allowances for any other options. God and his prophets have always been known for their stark and simple language, their brutal honesty.

On one hand, we have the option of a life dedicated to studying and applying the Word of God and thereby reaching our spiritual potential and finding true meaning in our lives. The result of that choice is “blessing” (b’racha in Hebrew).

Picture of the hebrew word b’racha (Strong’s 1293)

ברכה

On the other hand, you can disregard the Lord’s directives, but the result: curse (k’lala in Hebrew).

Picture of the Hebrew word k’lala (Strong’s 7045)

קללה

K’lala is related to the root “kal” which means “lightweight”. Stopping our ears to the voice of Yahweh causes us to become empty, devoid of self-substance, shallow and worthless (completely without weight). Abandoning the Scriptures disconnects us from the Source of truth and meaning in existence.

The scriptural Way is rich and meaningful. Self-fulfillment can be found in every word we study (of God’s Scriptures) and every “mitzvah” (command/blessing) we perform. Every mitzvah obeyed is a diamond and we should see every opportunity to perform a mitzvah as an opportunity to enrich and beautify ourselves.

Picture of 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

- [1 Corinthians 3:10-15 HCSB](#) 10 According to God's grace that was given to me, as a skilled master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But each one must be careful how he builds on it, 11 because no one can lay any other foundation

than what has been laid--that is, Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each one's work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. 14 If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost, but he will be saved; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

Discipleship (not salvation) stands on three pillars:

1. study of the scriptures,
2. service to the Master,
3. and doing kindness for others.

In a sense, these three concepts summarize the “mitzvot” (commandments) of God and sustain our lives by strengthening the pillars on which our lives stand!

All our other pursuits are not inherently worthless but if they are pursued for their own sake, if they are cut off from the larger, overriding purpose of getting closer to God and serving Him, they lead us nowhere. We find ourselves floating in space – spiritually weightless.

“In all your ways acknowledge Him.” Connecting everything in life to that overriding purpose makes everything we do a mitzvah. Having God in mind as we eat, sleep, exercise and relax transforms those activities into holy acts.

We can still take simple physical pleasure in our eating or other daily activities as we try to “elevate” them. Relishing what God has given us is a way to express gratitude. But we should be careful not to let the physical pleasures that God absolutely wants us to enjoy become the center of our lives. We would be putting the gift above the Giver.

In Hebrew, the word “if” in this passage can also be translated “as”. The blessing will not come as a result of the performance. No - obedience is its own reward. With every mitzvah obeyed we bless ourselves.