



COME
to the
Garden

VOL. 1 | NO. 2 | APRIL-JUNE 2013

Walking
With
Strength

Parenting in the
DIGITAL Age
PART 2

Manna ?
What is it ?

And more....

COME to the Garden



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e-mail: mail@yrm.org

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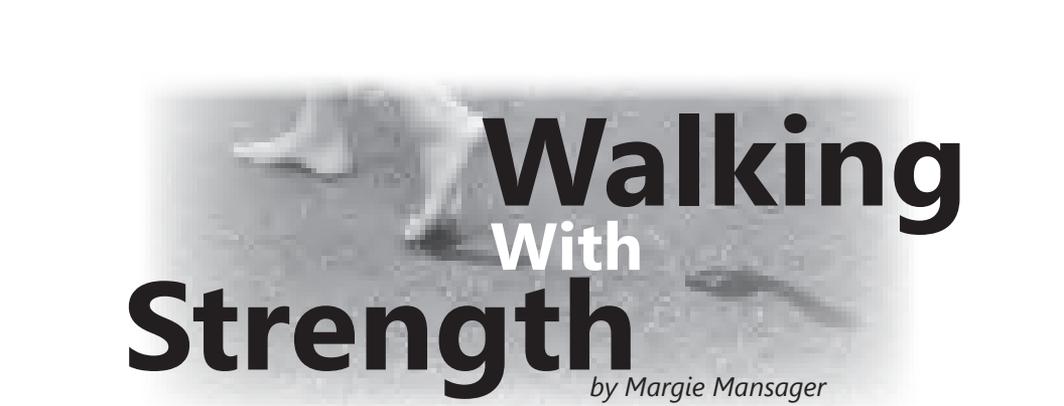
The Awakening

The natural world around us is stirring after a long winter's slumber. Buds on trees and bushes swell while spring peepers sing their hearts out. The air smells refreshingly sweet as the soil gently prods the tiny seeds, which it has safeguarded from the ravages of wind and cold for months, to grow, bloom and fulfill their wonderful purpose as part of Yahweh's exquisite creation.

This time of year reflects the meaning and purpose of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Our Savior was sacrificed, arose from His grave and gave us the hope of a new life. Just as we strive to cleanse ourselves of all sin and vanity, we proceed to clean our homes and rid ourselves of all leavening. We eat unleavened bread daily as an act of humility and to acknowledge that, just as the ancient Israelites had to depart Egypt in haste, before their bread could rise, so we too must leave puffed up pride behind as we obey and follow Him.

The Passover memorial and the week-long Feast that followed are now over. The sisters here at YRM were quite busy with preparations for the communal meals and gatherings that followed. Our attention is now turned to planting our gardens, teaching our children, managing our homes and seeking His Truth as we look forward to the upcoming Feast of Pentecost on May 19, 2013. We wish you joy as you are awakened spiritually. Sing your heart out!

Blessings, Debbie Reed and Debbie Wirl



Walking With Strength

by Margie Mansager

When I look at all the young fathers and mothers in the Assembly, I can't help realizing how blessed their children are to have parents in the Faith. Some of these parents have known Yahweh all their lives. Watching these young couples walk in strength of their Faith in everything they do is a joy. Their support of one another through all the problems of life is exemplary as they guide their families toward the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Other mothers and fathers come into the Faith later in life, sometimes as a family and sometimes by themselves. As they work to overcome sin themselves, they also are teaching their children Yahweh's ways and commandments. Learning Yahweh's ways brings happiness to families if they allow His will, forgiveness, and mercy to be their everyday guide.

“To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die...” Ecc. 3:1-2. How true are these words of the Preacher.

The loss of our fathers this past year still brings tears to both my husband and me, as our thoughts and memories drift to the time when they were here with us. Our fathers were different in so many ways, but similar in their strength. Not just the physical strength when they were younger but also their resolve to never give up. Even in their later years they kept going till they could go no more. Their attitude of never giving up, no matter what, has touched each one in our families. Don't ever give up! Stay strong, work hard for Yahweh and for your family and for the brethren around you. There will be trials and everyday problems. Nevertheless, continue as a guide and example for

your children, showing them how to persevere. Your children watch you in what you do, say, and act. If you say one thing and do another they'll do exactly what you do! You will also lose their respect.

When I was a young mother I thought I had all the answers on discipline. Wow, did I have a lot to learn. It was hard for me to watch my husband discipline our little toddler at first and I would come to the rescue. Guess what? It didn't take long before our child started playing one of us off against the other. We learned quickly to stand united as a couple, even if we didn't agree with the other's way of discipline at that time. We would discuss it later behind closed doors, but never in front of the children. I also realized when my husband stepped in the children listened.

My husband showed our children amazing love in the way he disciplined. He was calm, never disciplining in anger. He listened to them and discussed with them what they did wrong. He helped decide restitution, he was fair in punishment, and most of all he reassured them that they were deeply loved and because of that, correction was necessary. It hurt my children's feeling when they knew their father was disappointed in them, even more than the actual punishment. There were always lots of hugs and smiles afterwards and most of all, respect.

Another strength you might need to find deep within you, due to difficulty with a strong-willed child, is let your "yes" be "yes," and your "no" be "no" just as the Word says. When your child comes running to you, asking for something, consider your response before you answer. Don't say "no" and then give in and say "yes." If you do you have just taught your child that wearing you down will get him what he wants. He will also learn that "no" doesn't really mean "no." It's okay to say "no," but let them know why. Maybe they misbehaved that week or maybe what they want to have isn't good for them, etc. Remember, this goes both ways. Don't forget to say "yes" sometimes too, especially when you want to reward their good behavior. Be consistent and be strong! Your children will love and respect you for it. Yahweh's powerful example is His love for His Son. Let Yahweh's strength, love, mercy, and correction that He showed us guide you with strength to teach your children the way they must go so they do not depart from Him or you... 

COWS AND COMPASSION

(Should we eat meat?)

by Debbie Reed

“Then Yahweh said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground’.” Genesis 1:26

This morning, before grabbing my jacket to head outside, I looked out the window to see my cows patiently waiting for me at the feed tubs. Despite the big bale of hay by the fence and the newly emerged springtime grass, they are always eager to dine on grain. Sometimes they almost seem human in their understanding and acceptance of how things are. Watching them over the years, I have seen them express grief after losing a calf, curiosity as a cat ventures close, sadness when one of the herd leaves, boredom when left alone, fear when I’ve lost my temper and yelled at them, and anger when they’ve been wronged somehow. They babysit each other’s calves and console one another when sick or bereaved. And, even though I’ve had them dehorned, ear-tagged, and vaccinated and then proceeded to steal their milk and send their calves off to the meat processor, they still look at me with a measure of trust. What beautiful, gentle and compassionate creatures they are!

So, you may rightly ask, how can I eat beef? Many question the practice of killing animals for food. In fact, some are so repulsed by the idea of eating meat that they will only eat a vegetarian diet. Was mankind meant to consume only a plant-based diet? Often, Genesis 1: 29-30 is used in support of this viewpoint: *“Then Yahweh said, I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of*

the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food. And it was so.” A further reading of the scriptures, however, clarifies that there is no plant-only diet directive.

“Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to Yahweh. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. Yahweh looked with favor on Abel and his offering...”
(Genesis 4:2-4).



Why did Abel have flocks if not for food and why did he offer the choicest portions to Yahweh if eating meat was forbidden?

As Noah entered the Ark he was told to take seven of every kind of clean animal but only two of every kind of unclean animal (Genesis 7: 2). Why would there have been a distinction between clean and unclean animals were they not used for food? When the floodwaters receded and Noah, his family, and all the creatures came out of the ark, the first thing Noah did was to build an altar and sacrifice *“some of the clean animals and clean birds”* to Yahweh (Genesis 8:20).

Just before leaving Egypt, when the first Passover was instituted, Moses and the Israelites were commanded to slaughter a lamb, smear its blood on their doorposts, and roast it over a fire. Later, as they wandered in the desert, the Israelites were given specific instructions for building the Tabernacle, the Ark and the Altar for

burnt offerings. Not only did Yahweh instruct them in the timing and purpose of animal sacrifices, but also went on to tell the Israelites how to prepare the animals and which parts to eat.

The animal sacrifices performed by Abel, Noah, and Moses all foreshadowed the sacrifice of the Messiah, the Lamb who would take away the sins of the world. It was an act of faith. The sacrificial animals were to be blemish free, or perfect, as was our Savior. The killing of the innocent mirrored His blamelessness. And, just as the meat was necessary for the physical body to live, Yahshua's sacrifice was necessary for the spiritual body to live.

But, even though mankind was given dominion over the animals and allowed to use them for food, he was not given permission to torment them. Then, as now, farmers had a special relationship with their herds as they fed, watered, nursed and protected them. Yahweh's directive, "*Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk,*" Exodus 23:19 was a reminder to use compassion in our treatment of His creatures. Cattle, sheep, and goats roamed outside, grazing on green pastures in the fresh air. An animal was consumed only upon special occasions and the slaughter was done quickly and expertly.

How different we find the production of meat and dairy products today! Many animals are raised on bleak feedlots, wandering around in manure with little or no access to grass or even sunlight. The production lines of large slaughterhouses cannot ensure that each animal is killed quickly and humanely. Chickens may live their whole lives caged up in smelly, overcrowded poultry sheds to insure that their meat will be tender or that maximum egg production runs smoothly. Surely, Yahweh cannot be pleased with mankind's treatment of His creatures.

The stark reality is that if one eats meat, an animal had to die. This truth is hard to swallow and it is preferable to ignore this fact while

munching on a juicy cheeseburger. How is it possible to reconcile the sacrifice of an animal for food with our desire to be good caretakers of that which Yahweh has created?

Cut down on your meat consumption. Most of the people in the world did not and do not eat meat everyday. Use meat sparingly, as a condiment rather than the main course and eat meatless meals several times each week. A diet based heavily on meat not only kills more animals, but has been shown to cause many diseases in the consumer as well.

Try to purchase beef or poultry from a local farmer who uses grass-fed or free-range practices instead of the grocery store offerings. Research suggests that grass-fed cattle have 80% less E. coli in their gut systems than their feedlot counterparts. If more people would do this, perhaps the huge feedlots and poultry prisons would cease to exist.

Don't waste your food. Only fill your plate with as much as you will eat. Much time, effort, and expense went toward your meal. Remind your children and yourself that a life was taken, a sacrifice was made, so that they and you might nourish your bodies.

Remember to give thanks to Yahweh for that which He has provided and show your respect and love for Him by not abusing or taking His gifts for granted. 

Parenting in the DIGITAL Age

PART 2

by Amy Pletz



Are your children full from their media consumption, or are they craving more? When is too much, just plain ole' too much? Do you know what your children are viewing and participating in online when you are not around (and, if you think you know the answer ... are you sure)?

In part one of this piece we chatted about what it means to grow up in a digital generation and defined today's typical teen media consumption (what is being consumed). Now, it's time to bring these facts home and make a difference and keep you in the know. Our children are precious jewels given to us by the King and placed in our charge, as parents to raise and prepare for the coming Kingdom. Let us not minimize the "power" of the web, including its content, ability to connect people, and exposure to "unclean" things.

If you were flipping through channels on the television as a family and a show came on with highly sexualized material, would you turn it? What about a program that glorifies homosexuality? What about a show with teens acting disrespectfully, even if through sarcasm and comedy? Today on the television I am shocked to see children dressing like immoral adults and behaving with intense disrespect toward their parents and other authority figures, like teachers. I am the mother of five children, one son and four daughters. My two oldest daughters admit they struggle with societal pressures to act or look a certain way, mainly pressures they experience in school, and that so often thrive online. It is my chal-

lenge and responsibility to raise my children in a way that they find peace and strength in living for Yahweh, according to the Word. I continually tell them that the road to the Kingdom is not easy, but the reward is amazing.

Some would suggest cutting off the Internet to protect and ensure safety. Yes, this is an option. I choose to allow this medium of communication in my home, but the rules are not one-size-fits-all. My oldest is allowed the most freedom, but I watch her openly and I know her passwords. My two 12-year-olds are allowed to visit preapproved websites, and this occurs in a public area, like the rec room. My two youngest enjoy the Internet and only visit sites we have preapproved and saved as shortcuts on the desktop; this minimizes the possibility of surfing the web and seeing inappropriate content. It's not a perfect system, but it works for us right now.

I have long learned to be flexible and keep my eyes open, always ready to make a change for the safety and welfare of the family. And if a rule is broken there are consequences, generally starting with a hands-off the Internet for a substantial period of time. I just feel that while there are negative aspects of the Internet, there are also many pluses. For example, my oldest likes Facebook, a much debated social platform, a meeting place for "friends" to get together and share information and pictures. I monitor her on Facebook for safety reasons and to "see" what she is up to, which serves as the topic for many conversations, which I consider a big plus.

Honestly, even sites she has "liked," that I ultimately make her "unlike" because they are too mature, we talk about. I exercise my role as mom and mentor and walk her through the reasons why it's inappropriate and displeasing to Yahweh. I cherish these teaching moments. Living over a thousand miles away from much of our family isn't easy emotionally, and Facebook is a way for us to stay in touch, so this is one of those plus factors. On the flipside, my oldest tells me stories of folks she knows, children her age even,

who swear online and post crude pictures. She knows she has the ability to unfriend them on the site, block content, or comment and serve as a witness to the Word.

The Internet is here to stay. It has truly become an extension of the “real” world. I want to teach my children to use the Internet for the good it offers and how to be “street smart” and stay safe at the same time. I am also very much aware that the Internet is a real danger. Here are some tips I employ in my home to guide my children in their healthy consumption of media, specifically browsing online:

1. Limit your child’s media intake to a certain amount of time per day, and stick to it.
2. Have Internet access in public/common areas only, unless you feel your child has the maturity and understanding to have Internet access in private spaces. And, even if you choose the latter, still monitor usage.
3. Chat regularly with your children about their online interests and comings and goings.
4. Don’t allow any form of media to take away from family time. For example, in our home, cell phones don’t come to mealtime.
5. Perhaps the most important rule: clearly define your expectations and rules of conduct for your children. It’s best to do this initially and then ongoing as gentle reminders. If your children have friends over, make sure they know the house rules of media consumption.
6. If you see your child viewing something that is questionable, use it as a teaching moment and talk about it. Sometimes advertisements appear on web pages that viewers have no control over—you will need to decide how you will react to this. Again, it’s best to have a plan ahead of time.
7. Be consistent. I love this rule for parenting in general. If you have rules and expectations, stick with them. Be consistent. Don’t get lax when it comes to parenting in the virtual world. Yes, it’s more work, but it’s important.

While this world is ever changing, Yahweh changes not.

Media has evolved so much in the past century that it's hard to tell fiction from reality at times, and the creators of this media are becoming so cunningly creative and persuasive ... but, you can choose to be strong in the Word. Do not compromise your Father's principles for a righteous walk. We can use the Internet as a tool for phenomenal witness, spreading the Word to the nations. We can use the Internet as a tool to reach out to friends and family in need, sharing words of encouragement and connecting with opportunities to serve.

We can use the Internet as a channel to learn as so many assemblies have websites with good studies and videos. I leave you with this parting thought: As a parent, be aware, always on guard, always ready to protect your children ... but allow them room enough to grow leaves and stretch their branches with peace in knowing you gave them roots to withstand any storms that may come their way.

I often find comfort in letting go a bit by praying for my children. I am openly overprotective of them, but I am mindful not to hold on so tightly that they feel suffocated and without a voice of their own; I have learned how blessed it that I and my children are making decisions together ... for lifelong learning. This pleases Yahweh and does not take away from raising them in the way they should go.

As parents we are teachers in many ways, more than reinforcing math facts or language arts basics—we are in this for the goal of entering the very Kingdom of Yahweh! Know that the world is raging around us. A great evil is stirring as the end of days approaches. Keep watch, dress yourself and your children in the full armor of Yahweh, and embrace Messiah Yahshua each day. Teach your children that even in the virtual world Yahweh is watching, and He expects them to act in a way that is good and right. The same goes for us as parents. Be the example.

May Yahweh bless you and keep you! 



FRUGAL TIMES

by Debbie Reed

“Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.”

During the Great Depression of the 1930s and the WWII rationing of the 1940s, our grandparents experienced a shortage of food and other basic goods unknown to most of us living today. Frugality was an accepted way of life, not just a passing fad. The generations born after 1946 have experienced a level of material prosperity inconceivable to our ancestors. As the level of wealth rose, so did the propensity to waste. The pendulum is now swinging in the opposite direction and “the times, they are a changin.” Frugality is becoming a necessity once again.

The kitchen is a good place to start learning the art of frugality. So much of what we throw in the garbage, down the disposal or out in the trash bin can be put to other beneficial uses. Coffee grounds make a great fertilizer sprinkled on the garden. Strawberries, in particular, crave the java jolt. Egg shells also add beneficial nutrients to the soil, but be sure to crush them first since they don't break down quickly and your garden may end up looking like a hatchery. Egg shell halves can be filled with peat or potting soil for starting tomato plants from seeds. Place the “peat pots” into an empty egg carton and set in a sunny window until



planting time. Once in the garden, the decomposing eggshell will add calcium to the growing tomatoes.

Whenever I cook a whole chicken, the skins go to the dogs, the liver, gizzard and heart go to the cats, and the bones go into the stock pot for homemade chicken broth to be used in soups and stews. Beef bones may be done the same way for beef broth. Freeze raw vegetable scraps – celery ends, potato and carrot peelings, onion skins, cabbage stems, shriveled garlic cloves, you name it - and when you have a gallon bag full, cover with water and boil for vegetable stock. Water in which potatoes have been cooked is also a great soup starter, or, if you prefer, cool it and use as a power drink for your houseplants. Those little dabs of leftover vegetables from dinner can be thrown into a gallon freezer bag to be used later in vegetable soup. If you just haven't the time for simmering or freezing, throw the vegetable scraps on the garden compost pile and the meat scraps to the birds. The extra fat and protein will keep our feathered friends happy and healthy.



After a shopping trip, instead of throwing out all of those plastic bags, take them to a local charity. Our Clothes Cupboard is always in need of bags for their used clothing sales. Line small trash cans, like those in a bathroom, with plastic bags and they will seldom need scrubbing. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, plastic coated juice cartons, nestled between the logs, make great fire starters. Use newspapers for cleaning mirrors, glass tops and windows – you'll have no streaks or lint to mar the finish.

There are so many more ways in which we can live more simply and frugally. We must conserve and wisely use that which our Father has given us if we are to be His stewards. 

Manna



What is it?

Manna is what Yahweh fed the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. In Hebrew manna means "what is it?". Join us as we take a look at gelatin and learn "what is it?"

What is Kosher?

The word “kosher” is Hebrew for “fit” or “proper”. When applied to food, kosher means the food is acceptable to eat by the biblical standard set in the Torah — the law, or first five books of the Bible — specifically, Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Foods that are kosher rated have not been made with any unclean animal products, and kosher meats have been prepared properly (killed and bled correctly).

Kosher rated foods are also subject to the Jewish oral law (the Mishnah and the Talmud), which include some added laws such as mixing milk and meat. Even though the added Jewish oral laws do not concern us as true worshipers of Yahweh we can still benefit from the kosher standard.

Common Kosher symbols-

Some Kosher symbols may be followed by the following words or letters:





Passover indicates it is kosher for Passover. It is sometimes shortened to a P.

Parve refers to food that contains neither meat nor dairy.

Fish indicates it contains fish.

M indicates it contains meat.

And D indicates it contains dairy, or milk product.

What is gelatin?

Gelatin is an ingredient used to make things gel or congeal. Gelatin is derived from collagen that is obtained from horns, hooves, bones and skin of pork, cattle or fish.

Here are a few of the common products that may contain gelatin:

Gummy candies

Marshmallows

Yogurt

Sour cream and dips

Nail polish remover

Medication & Vitamin supplement capsules

Deodorant

Is "kosher" gelatin always acceptable?

Jello-O brand gelatin is labeled with a "K" kosher rating. However according to Kraft, the source of their gelatin can be pork or beef.

According to ouKosher.org -

"Since 'real' gelatin is derived from animal sources, it has been the focus of debate for nearly 100 years among leading rabbis.

The question is: Can gelatin from non-kosher sources be permitted? Although cows that were not ritually slaughtered, and, of course, pigs, are certainly not kosher, some rabbis were lenient in

allowing products that had very small amounts of gelatin added. This is because they felt that the gelatin extraction process caused the skins and bones to be sufficiently denatured, to the point that they are no longer considered food."

Since the "K" rating is not as strict as the OU rating, gelatin derived from pork will sometimes receive this "kosher" rating. While gelatin derived from pork may be acceptable to some Rabbis, it is not acceptable to Yahweh.

"And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcass shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you." - Leviticus 11:7-8.

"And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcass." - Deuteronomy 14:8.

What are sources for acceptable gelatin?

Beef and kosher fish. Many kosher marshmallows are made with gelatin derived from kosher fish.

Non-animal sources such as agar-agar and carrageenan, are derived from seaweed and pectin. 



Discover why the clean food laws are not only a biblical command for us today but essential for our health and longevity. Request your free copy of:
Clean Foods, What the Bible Teaches.

1-573-896-1000

Read or request online: www.yrm.org



Clean Cuisine

What is the meaning of the term, “clean foods”? In Leviticus Yahweh has given us specific instructions as to what we should and should not eat. All of the recipes published in this column adhere to these laws. For further information please refer to the booklet, “Clean Foods -- What the Bible Teaches” at the yrm.org website.

Wild Spring Greens

by Debbie Wirl

Birds are singing the sun is shining a glimpse of warmth creeps in after a long winter. Looks like it’s time to go outside and gather in some greens. “Gather in greens?!” you might ask incredulously. You look around, it’s early spring, nothing is growing out there or is it?

For many today the thought of gathering in food in preparation for a meal means driving to the grocery store or the local vegetable stand or orchard. For some, a vegetable garden in their backyard helps to provide them with sustenance. But did you know that Yahweh has provided us with physical nourishment that we neither need to plant nor have to go to the corner market to purchase? This “free” food is in the form of wild greens, herbs, and even flowers—and in the early spring when nothing else is growing, finding these wild “treasures” can be exciting.

One of these greens we’re going to consider here is wild watercress. While watercress can be found in the gourmet sections of some supermarkets, this vegetable also grows in the wild along

running streams and creeks. Growing abundantly from mid-February onwards, watercress is best as soon as it appears until it starts to flower sometime in April. High in vitamin K (a vitamin known to help maintain healthy blood clotting), watercress can be cooked as a green or pureed into watercress soup. While cultivated watercress can be eaten raw in such appetizers as cucumber and watercress sandwiches, it is generally recommended that this fresh-water vegetable that is found growing in the wild be cooked before being consumed. As we all know, this earth is not as pure and pristine as it once was, and unless you are 100% certain as to the source of the watercourse, wild watercress should not be eaten raw. The water quality of the spring or creek in which it grows is very important since *Fasciola Hepatica*, also called the “common liver fluke,” is a parasite that can wreak havoc with the liver. Questionable habitats such as irrigation canals, roadside ditches, or city park streams should be avoided. A more ideal place to find wild watercress is in small, running mountain streams.

Another early vegetable to consider is the wild onion. Members of the wild *allium* family, these spring greens can be found in lawns, fields, and along roadsides. These green onion tops have a mild flavor similar to fresh chives, and can be used in much the same way as you would use cultivated onion tops or chives. There were quite a few occasions that these early greens flavored some scrambled eggs or enhanced a beef kielbasa entree after I discovered there were no onions in the pantry and it was too early for the chives to be cut. Early spring is the best time to cut these greens, as they tend to get stringy by summer.

Interestingly, this last wild spring green we are going to consider is regarded by many to be a weed. In fact, some people painstakingly attempt to eradicate this green—the seemingly ubiquitous dandelion. But for some, this lowly plant offers much in the way of nourishment—from its tender leaves used in a salad, to its yellow flowers used for making wine or sautéed and dipped in batter and

fried for fritters, to its gnarled root used as a medicinal tonic.

The leaves should be picked as early as possible, since by the time the flowers start to appear, these tender greens have already begun to get bitter. These leaves are extremely nutritious, providing more beta-carotene than carrots, as well as a phenomenal content of iron and calcium.

Sometimes dandelion greens are cooked in a small amount of salted water, then drained and added to sautéed onions and garlic and seasoned with salt, pepper, and parmesan cheese. At other times they are fried with garlic in olive oil until wilted and tender-crisp, and then combined with dried fruit or toasted nuts. And yet at other times, these dandelion greens are eaten raw, tossed in a salad with sliced apples, sharp cheese, and toasted walnuts, or with a dressing poured over them.

The dandelion dressing on page 22 is much like the one my mother made almost every spring when I was growing up. The sweet/sour dressing helps to overcome the slightly bitter flavor of the dandelion greens.

Remember to gather any of these greens as early as possible, as they all start developing a bitter flavor the further along in the season that they are harvested. Also remember when picking any wild food, to be absolutely certain they are harvested from areas where pesticides or fertilizers have not been sprayed, or anywhere they could be contaminated with any form of pollutant.
Joyous eating!

Dandelion Salad with Sweet and Sour Dressing

8 slices turkey bacon
2 eggs - beaten
2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup vinegar
1 cup water
2 hard boiled eggs
2 tsp. cornstarch
fresh dandelion greens



Preparation -

Wash the dandelion greens and spin dry. Place the greens in a large serving bowl. Slice the hard boiled eggs. Lay the egg slices on top of the greens. Set aside. Fry the turkey bacon until tender crisp, then break or cut into bits. Set aside. Mix the 2 beaten eggs, vinegar, salt, sugar, and cornstarch together in a saucepan. Whisk and cook over medium heat until slightly thickened. Stir in the turkey bacon bits. Pour the warm dressing over the salad and serve immediately.

PROVERBS 31

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

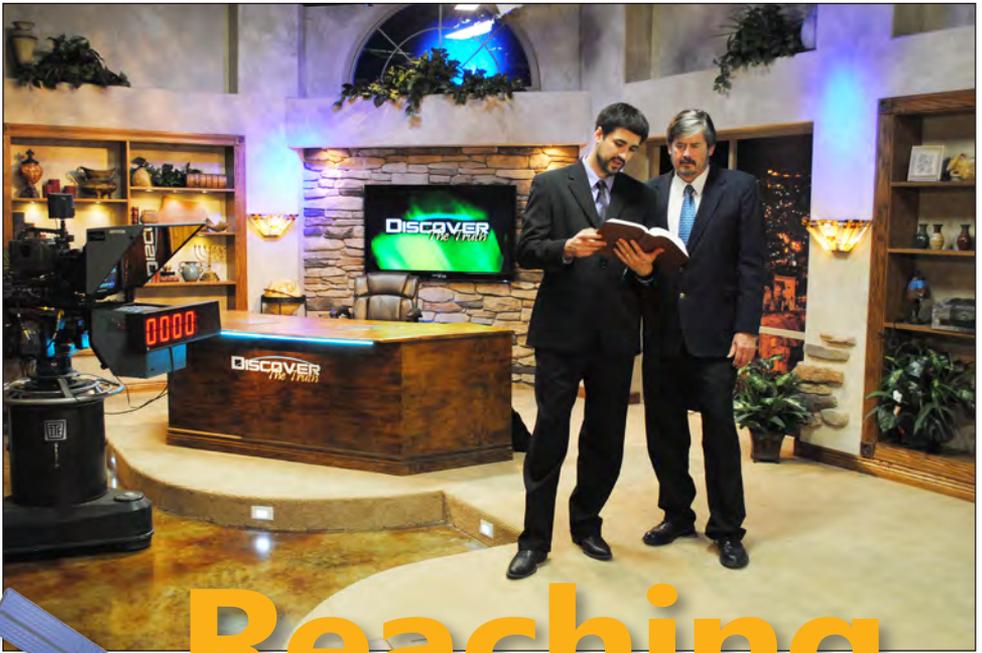
Verse 28: “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

There is a sweet sense of appreciation in this verse, for a woman—a wife and mother—to be called “blessed” and be praised. And, the appreciation is justified through the virtuous qualities of the woman King Lemuel describes in Proverbs 31, as taught to him by his mother.

A chord is struck within me thinking about a mother teaching her son—who would become king—what to look for in finding a woman worthy of his heart and hand in marriage. While my son is but twelve years of age, I often speak to him of matters of the heart, which include marriage and spiritual fulfillment. As a mother, it is my duty to mold my son in such a way that Yahweh is pleased and in such a way that my son will grow into a man of honor and carry on the legacy of truth seeking that he has inherited from his parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, believers dedicated to the living Word.

The woman described in verse 28 is called blessed by others, namely those living closest to her. It is not difficult to wear a mask in front of those you see infrequently. But, at home behind closed doors, this is where you are who you are ... the truth is revealed through daily actions. In this verse, I see a woman who serves to please Yahweh first, and as a result her family is well served and also pleased. I do not get any sense of boastfulness or selfish intentions. I see selflessness. And, while marriage at this point in history may often have been looked at as servitude for the bride, there was and still remains so much enjoyment and satisfaction in upholding your vows with cheer and the desire to give the best of yourself ... for love, love for Yahweh and Yahshua, and love for your family.

You can close your eyes and almost imagine this woman radiating with intense joy and purpose realized, something Yahweh placed within her and she willingly received, so much so that others want to be near her to glean. Have you ever been around someone who makes you feel good inside, someone who makes you feel like trying harder and doing more to please Yahweh? This is what I feel every time I read this chapter. May we all continually strive to be virtuous woman pleasing to our Father and those we are blessed to serve, for serving is a gift and Yahweh is the Giver. May Yahweh bless you and guide your footsteps as you seek to serve Him and your household. HalleluYah! 



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