Attitudes toward women in the play

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Who said each of these?
To whom are they speaking?
What is the context in terms of the play?
What does the language used suggest about attitudes to women?

1. ‘Can the world buy such a jewel?’
2. ‘an thou wilt needs thrust thy neck into a yoke’
3. ‘Because I will not do them the wrong to mistrust any, I will do myself the right to trust none’
4. ‘Thou wilt never get thee a husband if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue.’
5. ‘Would it not grieve a woman to be overmastered with a piece of valiant dust, to make an account of her life to a clod of wayward marl?’
6. ‘This is an accident of hourly proof, / Which I mistrusted not. Farewell, therefore, Hero.’
7. ‘I will so fashion the matter that Hero shall be absent, and there shall appear such seeming truth of Hero’s disloyalty that jealousy shall be called assurance, and all the preparation overthrown.’
8. ‘I will go get her picture.’
9. ‘I will requite thee, / Taming my wild heart to my loving hand.’
10. ‘tomorrow, in the congregation where I should wed, there will I shame her.’
11. ‘Not to knit my soul to an approved wanton.’
12. ‘A common stale’
13. ‘Give not this rotten orange to your friend. / She’s but the sign and semblance of her honour.’
14. ‘Death is the fairest cover for her shame / That may be wished for’

15. ‘If they speak but truth of her, / These hands shall tear her.’

16. ‘O God that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the market place,’

17. ‘I’ll hold my mind, were she an Ethiope.’

18. ‘Prince thou art sad. Get thee a wife, get thee a wife.’