



Vashti to Esther

The Journey of the Mind

Introduction

The scriptures tell us that we must be renewed in the spirit of our minds (Eph. 4:23, Roms. 12:2). This is an exhortation that is given to those who are already joined to Jesus through new birth. The great importance behind this renewal of the mind is not a doctrinal issue, but reaches directly into the heart of our relationship with Jesus and His expression through us in the earth. The Body of Christ is also His Bride. His Body is joined to Him in a relationship of oneness that should express His Life to others. Through His death our old life was crucified and put away, and in His resurrection we were raised in Him as His members, bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh (Eph. 5:30). This marriage did not happen to give us a new title but a new nature. Although this union is settled in the heart of God, the nature of that union will never be expressed through His Bride if she does not allow her mind to be renewed. There is a work of the Cross that must be applied to our mind wherein we put off the old mind and allow the mind of Christ to function in us. These are the issues that hold such great importance to the heart of the Lord, Who is our King and our Husband.

It is important to understand that every born again believer has both Vashti and Esther traits working in them. Vashti represents the carnal mind that must be dealt with even after new birth, and Esther represents our new heart that is alive to God and can receive His Word. Both Vashti and Esther help us to see our need to prepare our minds for the revelation of Jesus Christ. It would be so sad if we looked at Esther and thought she was the beautiful one. Jesus is the only beautiful One, and our goal is to have His Life formed in us to such a degree that His nature functions in every area of our existence. In the book of Esther we are going to see the process concerning the Bride of Christ having her mind renewed through union with her husband. We understand that union with Christ involves union into His death, burial and resurrection. We must understand that we were crucified in union with Him so that our old identity is dead and buried. Likewise we were raised in union with Him so that we could bear His Life and function as His wife!

Part One: The Need For A New Mind (VASHTI)

Married But Unrenewed



Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to King Ahasuerus. On the seventh day, when the heart of the King was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the King, to bring Vashti the queen before the King with the crown royal, to show the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the King's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the King very wroth, and his anger burned in Him" (Esther 1:9-12).

There are a few key elements that we need to take note of in these scriptures. The fact that Vashti carries the title of "Queen" at this time is very important, for all the kingdoms honor her as Queen and respond to her in this way. We should also notice that the royal crown is on her head. This royal crown is important for it should bear the significance of the King's glory on her head.

In this account Vashti is standing before her own court and the kingdoms of the world as the Queen. A Queen is the woman who is married to the King and one who represents him in female form. She is meant to be his glory and his crown, the most precious representation of the true spirit of his kingdom, for she is as his own self. The King has many things that can show forth his honor and his majesty, but none should more clearly display the true glory of his kingdom better than His wife. Vashti wore a royal crown on her head to mark her as royalty and one set apart to rule and reign with her husband in his kingdom. Yet, at that time, Vashti's crown was ceremonial, merely an ornament representing something that Vashti did not truly have. Vashti's title as Queen did not produce in her the proper spirit in which to rule. Her crown and her title would be of no avail in the kingdom until she had the spirit of the King working in her. As we continue on, remember that the deep reaching question of this situation concerns the state of the Church today and our relationship with Christ the King. We may be legally joined to Jesus through the merits of His Cross bringing us into the gift of our salvation, but have we conformed to the spirit of His Kingdom and do we represent Him in the earth as His Bride? You can have Christianity in name and ritual, but you will not have Christ in manifestation if you have not conformed to His image through embracing the work of His Cross.

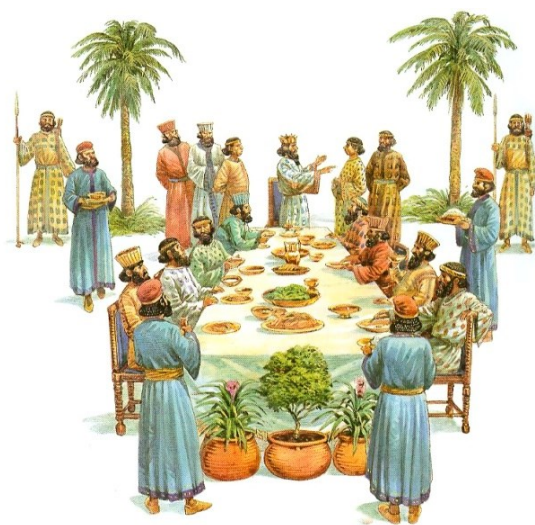
The King's Feast

"In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: ... When he showed the riches of his glorious Kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days" (Esther 1:3-4).

The Book of Esther begins with the King throwing a huge banquet. This celebration was meant to show forth the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty. At the very height of his feast the King's heart desired to openly show forth the beauty of his wife, *"To show the princes and the people her beauty, for she was fair to look on"*. And so the King sent his servants to bring forth his Bride to show herself at his feast. But the Queen would not come, *"But the Queen Vashti refused to come to the King's commandment, by his chamberlains"*. At this point it is important to notice that the King sent forth his word as her husband to, *"Come show yourself."* Vashti refused to respond to her husband's desire. We must consider that the King was also sending his word as her Lord, and Vashti did not respond to his command. Even knowing that the man who she was married to could also send forth his word as the ruler of his kingdom did not move Vashti at all.

Two Different Minds

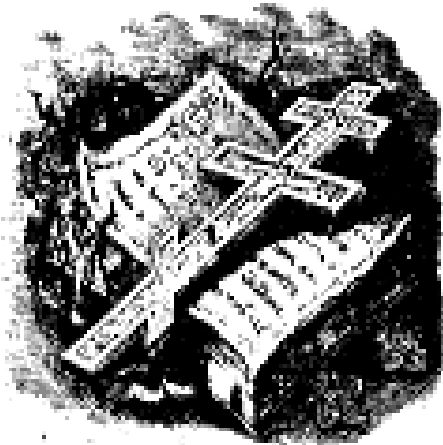
Vashti and Esther each represent a certain mind in the view that this booklet is discussing. Vashti represents the unrenewed mind in the believer. Every born again believer has been raised up with Christ as a member of His Body in resurrection, but their mind may still be unrenewed. Vashti is married to the King and has the title of Queen, but she is yet carnal also translated as "fleshly". At this point let us try not to focus on disobedience and acts of rebellion, for these are merely the fruit of the fleshly mind. The greater issue to consider here is the source of her disobedience which is a fleshly mind. The spirit of Vashti's mind did not bear the nature of her husband and so she moved as separate from him. She held on to her own mind rather than putting it off to receive her husband's. When the word of the King, who was also her husband, came to her, she rejected it. She had received his word in title, for she willingly wore a crown and let people refer to her as Queen, but she rejected his word in spirit because she would not respond to his word in action and deed. The Cross removed our flesh so that Jesus could be our Life. If we resist the inward work of the Cross, then we will continue to go our own way rather than allow Christ to be Head and Life of His own Body.



The Carnal Mind Does Not Respond Properly to His Word

"To have the mind of the flesh will automatically bring forth death, but the very essence of the Spiritual mind is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is God's enemy it cannot submit to God's law and therefore never will" (Rom. 8:6-7).

Vashti is not just the Queen; she is the wife of the King. Even though she truly was married to the King and in a position to rule with him, she did not have his spirit and could not respond properly to his commands. Such is the case with the carnal believer. Before the nature of our mind is transformed we are at war with the very King we should be ruling with, for the carnal mind is enmity with God (Rom. 8:6-7). In this picture we can see the disobedience that the carnal mind brings because the King said, "Come" and she said, "No." We can interpret that as a woman who is simply hard-hearted, rebellious and disobedient. But what if she does not respond properly to the word of the King who is her husband because she is unrenewed in the spirit of her mind? If she does not function by his nature and spirit because she has retained her own mind, then she cannot and will not receive his word. Very simply, it is the unrenewed mind that does not respond to the word of the Lord and Head properly. Therefore, to remain carnal is to give place for these attitudes to manifest because the fleshly mind will always produce such fruit. Her sin was that she had allowed a mind other than her husband the King to remain in her. She had not put off the old man and become renewed in the spirit and nature of her mind (Eph. 4: 22-23).



Her Husband Is Disturbed Deep Within

"But the queen Vashti refused to come at the King's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the King very wroth, and his anger burned in him" (Esther 1:12).

The King knew that he had sent forth his word through his servants, and his wife did not respond. But those chamberlains did respond. They were not married for they were just his servants and yet they responded to the word of the King, but his own bride was unyielding to him.



How deeply that must have hurt and disturbed the King. His external servants could hear and respond faithfully to his word, yet his own wife would not be moved by the word of her husband. He was cut off at the neck, if you will, for the word of the head was not received by his own body. The servants were purposed to function as messengers to carry his

word, but the bride is meant to express his word through a glorious union, and yet she was the one who could not receive it properly. And so he was deeply upset. The King is very wroth and “his anger burned in him.” The King’s anger did not come from pride or selfish glory. He was not afraid to lose face because his queen did not do what was right. His anger was not due to the external disgrace before men or because of pride and a need to be exalted in the eyes of men. His anger was not on this level but emanated from deep inside of him, in a place that only his bride could touch. He may have thought, “Where is she, and why is she not responding as one with me? Why is she not moving with me when I move and coming forth when I say come forth? Why is she not being me? She is not there.” This picture can help us to consider the heart of Jesus. It is a deep, deep thing when Christ can not move through His own body. How must He feel when we do not receive His word and His word is being cut off because our minds are not being renewed? That is more than just a situation of us needing to shape up, this speaks of the intimate things of our relationship with Christ as our Lord and husband. That should touch us on a deeper level than just, “My mind needs renewing.” This goes right to the heart of the matter. We are married to Him Who is the Word, and when our mind is not renewed we can not properly receive Him. This should get us on a heart level rather than on a right or wrong obedience level.



Because the heart of the King was merry, the feast was extended and the people rejoiced. Yet the bride turned the heart of the King to sorrow and an entirely new tenor fell upon the Kingdom. The feasting ended and the search for a new Queen began. All the faithfulness of the King’s servants could not move the heart of the King like his bride did. And this is true today with the Lord. Central to the flow of His Kingdom is a Bride that has been renewed in the spirit of her mind and functions as one with her Husband, the Lamb of God. When the Bride is not so, we must stop the celebration, take note of King Jesus’ heart and desire, and begin seeking for the renewing of our minds that He might have what His heart longs for. When we are in tune with the heart of the King, we will find it difficult to celebrate and feast while the mind of the Bride is yet unconformed to the spirit of Christ, her risen Head. We will rather fall at the foot of the Cross and embrace that we are dead with Christ and partake of His Life and Mind alone.

Romans 7 ; That Sin might become Exceedingly Sinful

“The King commanded his seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus to bring Vashti the queen before the King with the crown royal”

(Esther 1:10-11).

“That sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful” (Romans 7:13b).

The commandment came forth from the King to his own bride and she would not perform it. At this point sin became exceedingly sinful, for it manifested the utter separation of the mind of the flesh to the Lordship of Christ over His own Body. In the

New Testament we can see that Vashti is representing something far beyond herself. In Romans chapter seven and verse twelve it says, *"The law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid, but sin that it might appear sin works death in me, by that which is good. That sin by the commandment, might become exceedingly sinful."* When Vashti did not come forth at the King's command, it was exceedingly sinful. We must understand that her mind had been carnal before the commandment came. If Vashti represents the unrenewed mind, then she never could respond to his word out from oneness of nature, yet the seriousness of her condition had not been fully revealed to her. But when a huge banquet was thrown and everybody in the kingdom was there, and the commandment went forth and she could not follow it, then it became exceedingly sinful in her eyes. She needed to see that she was not really functioning as Queen. Was her condition exceedingly sinful the day before? Yes. Did she know it? No. So the commandment needed to go forth to reveal to her the state of her unrenewed mind. Could she see the exceeding sinfulness of it in her husband's eyes that day? Could she sense her need to be transformed by observing the hurt her rebellions caused him? The purpose of his banquet was ruined, for her appearing was at the heart of it and she would not appear. The King's heart had been merry with wine and now it was wroth with anger. Was her purpose greater than just a title and crown? The King needed someone who would be with him in the ways that he longed for, in the issues that were at the heart of His Kingdom.

The question came up, *"What shall we do unto the queen according to the law?"* Notice the word "law". It had now become an issue of the law because she had not performed the commandment of the King. The King's command was proper and fitting, coming out from the true dictates of his Kingdom. *"For we know that the law is spiritual"*. The King is saying, "come" and that is good. His motive is for a Bride that is with him and showing forth his glorious life. The resistance to this good commandment is the state of the person's mind, *"But I am carnal."* Carnal does not mean unsaved or heathen. Carnal simply describes the state of a believer who is yet fleshly in the spirit of their mind. This is different than someone who is not born again, rather it is a born again believer who is sold under sin and still in bondage to the flesh nature. *"For what I would do I won't do, and what I would, I do not do, and what I hate, that I do. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good, now it is no longer I that do it, but the sin that dwells in me"* (Rom. 7:15-17). In other words, we are not our carnal mind, we are one with Jesus. Yet our carnal mind continually circumvents the word of the One we are married to causing us to do that which we do not want to do.

This dilemma in Romans chapter seven is a deeply grievous experience to one who loves the Lord but simply cannot obey Him. We are brought to see that our only hope of fulfilling the law of Life is through union with Christ alone. We are not the sin that dwells in our members, rather we are one with the King. We are His bones and married to Him,

but the unrenewed mind is not of Him. It is sin and it is at war with Him. The distinction is there for us in the scriptures. A person in this condition might say, "My heart is with the King, but my mind will not obey him. My mind will not go there. The sin that is in me is not who I am, but it dwells in my members and performs that which I would not do." That is the dilemma of Romans chapter seven, and that is what Vashti represents in this study. The wise men in the book of Esther asked, "What shall we do with her?" This is the same question that comes up in Romans chapter seven, "*O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*" What shall we do with this mind that cannot and will not obey the King's commands? Such a one in this state may cry out, "I am carnal, sold under sin and in need of the Life of my King that will fulfill the commands." Only by having the mind of Another can this dilemma be remedied. Thank God for the Cross and the Life of Christ!

He Has To Reveal that Your Mind Is Unrenewed

Before God can truly demonstrate the need for our mind to be renewed He has to establish that our union with Christ is settled. If our oneness with Christ is not established in our hearts, then we will continually assume that our carnality is proof that we are not joined to Jesus. Yet a good look into the scriptures proves that those Paul referred to as carnal were always believers. Once we are rooted and grounded in His love, then He can start building upon those foundations. After we know by grace that we have been accepted in the Beloved Son (Eph. 1:6), it will be easier to properly receive the reality that, "My mind is not renewed." God has to reveal to us that our minds are not renewed and the depth of wretchedness that results from that state. Convincing us of that is probably half the battle. The bible says that our old heart is deceitfully wicked and who can know it (Jer. 17:9)? It is important to understand that deceit is something that manipulates itself to look alright when it is not. It can spin us around in such a manner that it will deceive our own carnal minds into thinking they are spiritual. That is the nature of the unrenewed mind. That is why the spirit or nature of the mind has to be renewed, because it is this spirit that is working in the mind that twists everything to say, 'I do not need to be renewed.'

And so Vashti was put into this situation and brought forth on such a platform to convince her that, "I can not perform the commandment." The command of the husband goes forth and she says, "I will not do it. I do not want to show myself, I do not want to go forth in the life of another. I want to go my own way. I want to do my own thing. I have the title of Queen, but I want my own Kingdom." That is the way the flesh is, and that is us apart from Jesus. That is what the unrenewed mind does; it has a mind of its own and does not have the mind of Christ. This mind is separate from His mind. Being joined to Jesus does not improve our mind, but replaces our mind with the mind of Christ, transforming the spirit of our mind through the indwelling Life of Christ.



This Is A Kingdom Issue

“For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The King Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not” (Esther 1:17).

Vashti gives us a strong picture of how our relationship with Jesus can be if we remain carnal, and how our unrenewed mind is our enemy. This fleshly mind is also the Lord's enemy because it steals away His wife from being one with Him in manifestation. In God's view we are in Christ and one with Him because that was settled by His death, burial, and resurrection. But in the Kingdom aspect of it we can hold back from entering in to the fullness of what God has purposed in His heart. When it is time to show forth the true majesty of His Kingdom through His Bride shining forth His glorious nature, then it is tragic if our mind is unrenewed. In resurrection our union into Christ is settled. By grace through faith in the operation of God, we are in Him. He is made unto us all things. These realities are settled. Yet when it comes to manifesting His Kingdom in the earth, like Vashti, having an unrenewed mind will prevent His expression through us. We will not manifest Christ or be moved at His word as Head of the Body. In that arena, without taking away from any of the benefits and realities of the finished work of His Cross, we are in desperate need of a deeper in-working of the Cross that will truly remove the mind of the flesh and bring forth the spirit of Christ in the very nature of our mind.

Misrepresenting Him in the Earth – The Real Issue

“And Memucan answered before the King and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the King only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus” (Esther 1:16).

And so the wise men began to perceive that the seriousness of the situation extended beyond the King and Queen's relationship for it sent forth a wrong message to all the women in the Kingdom. *“The King said to the wise men, which knew the times, for so is the manner to all who knew law and judgment... What should we do unto the queen Vashti, according to the law, because she has not performed the commandant?”*

This situation with Vashti has touched the whole Kingdom. The Queen, who most significantly is the wife of the King, is supposed to represent him in the earth, and she has now misrepresented him in the earth by not coming forth in his image. This is basically what the wise men said to the King concerning Vashti's act, “All the women in the kingdom will think this is how it is. This is how they think marriage with the King is supposed to be.” In that same sense this is how we can misrepresent Christ in the earth if we do not come forth before the people in His image. They may think that this is how Christianity is. They will look at us and think, “If I am a deeper life, Christ-filled person,

then I can just reject the heart and word of the Lord, live by my old fleshly nature that is God's enemy and was crucified in Christ, and still consider myself to be a bride." Where is the testimony of one who shines forth with the glory of Christ? Will people see the title of Queen/Christian while observing attitude and actions of the flesh?

And so the wise men counsel the King that this is a serious situation, for the news of it will go all over the whole Kingdom. She represents the King in the earth. This is bigger than just an action of disobedience in that the King's wife would not come out. This is a Kingdom issue because she was made to represent Him in the earth. See how different that is? This is way bigger and way more serious than just an incident at the feast. Some may accuse the King of being too hard on Vashti, and today in our own lives we may want the Lord to overlook the carnality in our lives. But we must learn to see that God is not just dealing with some incident, but with the principle that can destroy His testimony through us. God is not dealing with us concerning our acceptance in His Son. God is dealing with us concerning our conformity to His image and how we represent Him in the earth. Do people see Christ in us when God sends us forth? Does the Bride appear as a city made of transparent glass that shows forth the Lamb Who is enthroned in her and ruler of her heart? If we care about His heart and the fullness of His plan, then we will be open for God to deal with us concerning the renewing of our minds. We will embrace the deeper in-working of the Cross.



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Discussion Questions for Part One:

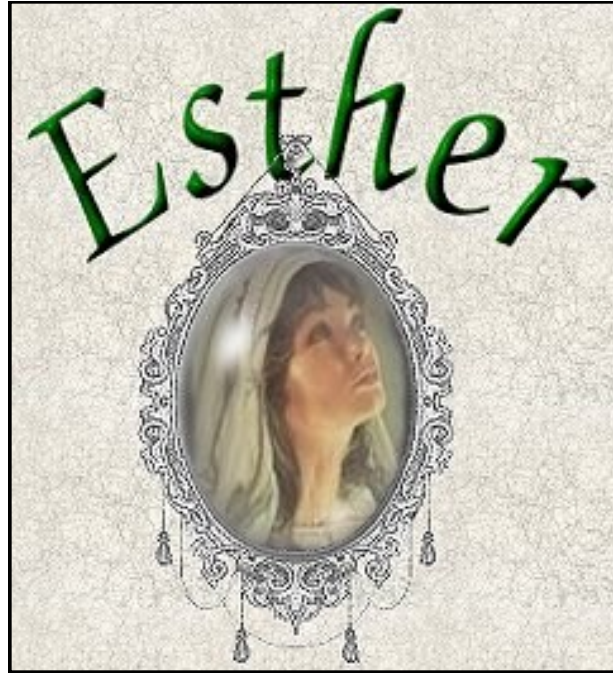
“Vashti - The Need For A New Mind”

1. The great importance behind the renewal of our minds is not a doctrinal issue, but something that directly affects Christ's expression through us in the earth. Discuss how we can begin to open our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to show us how important it is that we see our need for Christ to be formed in us in this specific way. Discuss how this will entail our embracing of a deeper in-working of the Cross.
2. Our union into Christ is settled in the heart of God because of the Cross, but the nature of that union will never be expressed through His Bride if she does not allow her mind to be renewed. Are we satisfied to have union with Christ without that union changing us deep within so that His Life can be fruitful in us?
3. The King has many things that can show forth his honor and his majesty, but none should more clearly display the true glory of his kingdom better than his wife. How can this principle also be true in relationship to Christ and His Church?
4. Is the greater issue Vashti's act of disobedience, or that fact that the spirit of Vashti's mind did not bear the nature of her husband and so she moved as separate from him?
5. Vashti's sin was that she had allowed a mind other than her husband's to remain in her. She had not put off the old man and become renewed in the spirit of her mind (Eph. 4: 22-23). Discuss how it is our responsibility as those who are joined to Jesus to be renewed in the spirit of our mind.
6. It is a deep, deep thing when Christ can not move through His own body. How must He feel when we do not receive His word and His word is being cut off because our minds are not being renewed?
7. Central to the flow of our Lord's Kingdom is a bride that has been renewed in the spirit of her mind and functions as one with her Husband, the Lamb of God. When the bride is not so, we must stop the celebration, take note of King Jesus' heart and desire, and begin seeking for the renewing of our minds that He might have what His heart longs for. How can we begin to do that in our lives today? How is the Cross essential for this to truly happen?
8. How does the picture of Vashti in Esther chapter one help show us the meaning of Romans 7:13b?

Discussion Questions Continued:

9. Why was the purpose for the kings banquet ruined when Vashti would not come? In this example can we see how we can miss the Lord's heart and needs by simply attending church and worshiping, living as Christians and doing ministry without coming forth in His image? Can we see how the Cross is needed in our lives even after salvation?
10. We are not our carnal mind, we are one with Jesus. Yet our carnal mind continually circumvents the word of the One we are married to causing us to do that which we do not want to do. Discuss how we can see the need for the Church to prepare herself for the Lord, even as it is written in Revelation 19:7 "For the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready". How can this also relate to the parable in Matthew 25:1-13 instructing us to be as wise virgins that are made ready for our bridegroom?
11. Our carnality is NOT proof that we are not joined to Jesus, although it IS proof that we need to have our minds renewed so that the very Life of Christ can be the nature in which we function. Discuss the great importance for the Body of Christ to understand the need for His Life to transform each member into His image so that we might truly bear His essence and Life before the world and not misrepresent Him.
12. Discuss how we must learn to see that God is not just dealing with our failures and sins, but with the principle of living according to our old mind and the old nature. Not functioning through the mind of Christ can destroy His testimony through us. God is not dealing with us concerning our acceptance in His Son for that is settled in Christ. God is dealing with us concerning our conformity to His image and how we represent Him in the earth.
13. Because we care about the Lord's desire, we will open our hearts for Him to deal with us concerning the renewing of our minds. In what ways can we pray for each other and help one another to keep our focus on the heart of Jesus and our desire towards His needs rather than obsessing over our lack and failures?
14. Discuss how our carnal mind is like Vashti and will never be able to please the King or respond properly. Share scriptures that address the carnal mind and show how God's answer to the carnal mind is the death of Christ and not repair or self improvement.
15. Discuss how our new hearts towards the Lord are like Esther. Encourage one another to identify in Christ Who is our Life and not with the old man who has been crucified. Although our mind's may not be fully renewed, our hearts are pressing in to be completely transformed into His image by the power of the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 3:16-18).

Part Two: Preparing For A New Mind



Part Two: Preparing For A New Mind



What Should We Do?

The wise men asked concerning Vashti, “What should we do to her?” And today we ask ourselves that same question, “What should we do with an unrenewed mind when it begins to mess with the things of the Kingdom and misrepresent Christ, the Husband, Head, and King?” What do we do when we realize that our “Vashti” mind has overpowered what should be the mind of Christ in us? Only God can reveal His Son in us, and only the Holy Spirit can renew us in the spirit of our minds. We cannot, by the works of the flesh, renew the spirit of our mind. Can flesh make itself spirit? If flesh scrubs itself with soap all day, it will still never become spirit. God performed an operation in Christ whereby He put off the flesh through the circumcision made without our human efforts at the Cross (Col. 2:11). God cannot make something that is flesh, spirit, for that which is flesh is flesh and that which is spirit is spirit (Jn. 3:6). And so the question remains, “What shall we do with Vashti, what shall we do with this unrenewed fleshly mind?” Although God alone can reveal His Son in us, and Christ alone removed our flesh through His death... there is a part that we can do, and that is the part that Esther represents.

The Preparation of the Mind - Esther

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and put on the new man” (Eph. 4:23-24).

There is a preparation of the mind for the revelation of Jesus Christ, and that is what Esther stands for in this view. She represents a mind that was willing to prepare herself to be transformed by another Life. Vashti, if she represents the mind of the flesh, is never going to change. She is utterly rejected for the carnal mind can not be changed, only put off through the death of Christ. God did not repair, renew or resurrect flesh; He crucified it. We cannot convince a carnal mind to be spiritual, rather we must put it off and put on the mind of Christ instead (Eph. 4:23-24). It is important to note that we (in our true identity) are not Vashti, but our unrenewed mind is Vashti. We do not identify with the sin that is in our members, but sin in our members was crucified with Christ and cannot get into the Kingdom. So we do not have to identify with Vashti, but we can say that our old mind is

Vashti. And she is never going to be the Queen in the right spirit. So we reckon her dead, even as we reckon the mind of the flesh crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:11). Rather than training the old flesh mind to think properly, we mortify it daily by delivering it up to the death of Christ (Rom. 8:13). It is therefore rendered inoperative based on the work of the Cross and our agreement with it. We can also pray, "Holy Spirit, help my heart to be pliable so that I can be someone that you can mold and speak Your word into. I want to be willing to break with old concepts so that You can take me out of my old identity and bring me into my new identity as one with Jesus in the very spirit of my mind."

Searching For Those That He Can Work With

Then said the King's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the King: And let the King appoint officers in all the provinces of his Kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the King's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: And let the maiden which pleaseth the King be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the King; and he did so"

(Esther 2: 2-4).



And so a great search began throughout all the provinces of the Kingdom. They turned from celebrating and glorying in their prosperity to finding a specific type of heart that might become a bride. The King's servants may have thought, "Where are the hearts that we can work with? Gather the minds that are willing to be changed, for we need those kind of women." And even so today the Holy Spirit is searching for those who are willing to have a new Mind in them; for He desires to prepare them for the revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:16). There is a cry in the hearts of the believers all over

the world that are willing to gather to the preparation chambers of the King's servants. They are willing to be transformed in the very spirit of their mind so that Christ will be Life and not doctrine. They have the heart of the Bride for they desire to function by the Life of the King and manifest the nature of His Kingdom. May we gather together as those who desire to be prepared as a Bride adorned for her Husband. May we allow the King's servants and His Holy Spirit to make ready our minds for the revelation of Jesus Christ "Wherefore gird up the loins of your minds, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the unveiling of Christ in you" (1 Pet. 1:13).

Flesh is Flesh

Many fair young virgins were gathered from all over the Kingdom. They were called, they came and they desired to become a bride to the King. All of them went through the extensive process of saturating in oils and perfumes for twelve months. Yet, with all these things going for them, only one would enter into the King's chamber and become his wife. The King was looking for something specific. Now, at this point it is very important that we understand the reality that there is only one Bride and she is the corporate body of Christ. Together we were raised in Him and are members of Him corporately. In the Book of Revelation chapter twenty one, the Bride is described as a city and not just one brick. With this in mind, we will not view Esther as just one believer but as a representation of one corporate Bride that is full of JESUS and not her own beauty or adornments. As the story shows us, the King found pleasure in Esther. Esther had not only received the spirit of his kingdom, but refused to beautify herself with her own personal assets. What a tragedy if we thought there was something special about our love for Jesus or affections towards Him that made us better than other women. All of that is part of the flesh that will try to steal the glory from Christ ALONE being our beauty and acceptance. May we let the Cross put all those hidden motives to death so that He may purify our intents with His Life.

We may have many ideas concerning what set Esther apart from the other girls. Some may believe that Esther was the prettiest or the kindest. Others may think that she worked harder than the other woman, putting forth the greatest effort. We may assume that she got special treatment because she was the favorite. If we believe these are the things that set her apart to the King, then we will strive to do these things in our lives. It is important that we know what the Lord is looking for because none of these things set Esther apart from the other women. Jesus Himself said, "That which is flesh is flesh." Many times we think that Esther is the soft and sweet one, but that also is flesh. Flesh is flesh, and sweetness, softness or anything that is us before Christ is formed will bring no favor in the King's eyes. Our best flesh will not please the King for all flesh was crucified. God is not looking at our flesh, but seeking for who will leave father and mother to become one with His Son. He does not care if you are the sweetest and "most spiritual" in the Kingdom. If it is not Christ in us, then He rejects it. God is not looking for the most committed and loving, rather He is looking for His Son in us. May He increase and we decrease (Jn 3:30).

No Father, No Mother – The Holy Spirit Liked Her

Esther had something very, very special going for her; she had neither father nor mother. *"And he brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had no father or mother"* (Esther 2:7).

All those other virgins wanted to be renewed in the spirit of their mind, but they still had an old identity. It is impossible to hold on to the old and gain the new at the same time. They may have left father and mother to come to the Kings palace to be prepared, but in their hearts they still had an old identity to go home to. Esther had no home to return to

for her parents were dead. She had no father or mother, only Mordecei who represents the Holy Spirit. Even as Eve did not have a past and could only comprehend who she was by knowing Adam who she came out from, the Bride of Christ is not a mixture of her old self and Jesus. The Bride came out from Jesus. She was birthed in His resurrection as an altogether new creation and was formed by His Life. To know herself she must know Him. Having an old family, mind, home and identity to return to greatly hinders our preparations to know Christ as our only Life.

Some of these virgins may have had a lot of stuff they added to themselves in those twelve months of preparations. Esther did not have anything to add, because she did not have a past. Romans 6:6 says that our old man is crucified with Christ. She did not have an old man and she did not have a mother. She did not have anything but the Holy Spirit (Mordecei) to explain her identity to her. She had one source, the Holy Spirit, and He knew her true identity and what the King was looking for. Everything else had been cleaned out. Esther may have been uglier than some of the women and probably had some bad attitudes. The thing that set her apart from the other women was that she did not have a past, and therefore she could enter into something totally new.

Esther's relationship with the Holy Spirit can also be seen in how she responded to Hegai the King's chamberlain. Hegai is another picture of the Holy Spirit in the preparation phase. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the process of conforming us to the image of Christ is so vast that it takes more than one view to comprehend it. *"Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the King, she required nothing but what Hegai the King's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her"* (Esther 2:15). The King's chamberlain was able to respond to Esther in a way that would hasten her preparations and help make her ready for the King. *"And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him, and he speedily gave her things for the purification, which such things had belonged to her and the seven maidens that he had given her"* (Esther 2:9). In other words, the King's chamberlain, representing the Holy Spirit, took a special liking to her. Again, we may assume that she was better and preferred above the other women because she is Esther the special one. Yet that is a carnal and fleshly view of God's way of dealing with us, for God does not think that way. Esther represents someone being made ready to have their mind renewed to oneness with Christ in spirit and Life. In this view she is not to be understood as male or female, but represents a vessel preparing to have Christ revealed within. She represents someone who is separated from the old creation and identified with the Holy Spirit's view of who they are in Christ. The Holy Spirit's greatest ministry is to bring forth Christ in the Church. When someone is looking for Christ alone to be their Life, that draws forth the care of the Holy Spirit (Mordecei and Hegai). By God's grace and dealings in our lives we are brought to the place of becoming tired with our "Vashti" carnality and ready for Christ to be revealed as our Life, transforming the very nature of our minds. All glory to God!

Two Vessel's of Honor

“And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her” (Esther 2:11).

Esther began to draw the communion of the Holy Spirit in such a way that her preparation stage became intense and constant. The leaving of her old life and preparing to be brought into her new identity had reached such a crescendo and momentum that the Spirit was constantly around her and checking on her. This was a time when her progress was not stagnating in the wilderness like those who wandered in circles for years. There was this energy of the presence of the Holy Spirit, like Mary must have known just before Jesus was born. In the Gospel of Luke, the Holy Spirit had drawn nigh and overshadowed Mary for He knew that Christ was soon to come forth (Lk. 1:35). The Dove was descending and remaining on this one because the Seed of God was growing in her and would soon manifest in Life. In other words, it was the potential for an increase of the Son that was attracting the Holy Spirit's intense care and attention. This is oftentimes different than what we think because we may not fully comprehend how central the Son is in all things. The Son is what draws the Spirit's attention. In ALL things Christ is pre-eminent in His heart. If we understood that, then we would seek to draw the Holy Spirit's caring by making Jesus first in our hearts by seeking for His increase.

There are many similarities between Mary the mother of Jesus and Esther. Both of them had a time of preparation before God used them in relation to His Seed in the earth. When God's Messenger came to Mary, her answer revealed a heart that was ready to submit to the Word of God. What did Mary say? “Be it unto me according to Thy Word.” Had Mary lived in Esther's time, she would have been one of the fair young virgins that gathered to the King's palace. She was ready to leave father and mother. She was ready to be renewed in the spirit of her mind. She was ready to have someone else revealed as her life. Mary was not adding herself and her opinions to God's Word, rather she held His Word in her heart. Mary was only preparing herself with what the Holy Spirit gave her, which was the Seed of Christ. Likewise, Esther would only add unto herself what the King's chamberlains gave her. What did the Holy Spirit give Mary to prepare her as a vessel of honor? He impregnated her with Christ. Her purification was the Seed of God in her Spirit. She became overshadowed by the Spirit, and then she brought forth Jesus. Esther too, became overshadowed with the preparations of the Holy Spirit and eventually laid down her life for others, which is a picture of Christ's Lamb nature in the believer.



The Good Ground of A Mind Ready To Be Renewed



“Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to King Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women)”

(Esther 2:12).

A large part of the preparation process required months and months of saturation in oils and perfumes. To be touched with oil and perfume will cause a person to smell and feel different for a short time, but these elements will soon fade and the old scent and feel will return. The women were to remain in this process for twelve months, saturating constantly. Saturation speaks of a process that requires a continual bathing until the substance has changed the person. Jesus told the disciples that were serious about being changed to continue in His word (Jn. 8:31). Mary, the mother of Jesus, did not just hear God's Word and then forget it, she pondered the word by holding it in her heart and meditating on it. The way she responded to the Word of God defined what kind of ground she was. Because Mary was good ground, she eventually brought forth Christ. We can see by the way that Vashti responded to the word of the King that our carnal mind is not good ground and will not be convinced to partake of the spirit of her husband. That is why the mind of the flesh was crucified. Yet, through new birth, each one of us has the ability to receive the Word in a manner that will let Jesus grow in us. Jesus taught in Matthew chapter thirteen concerning how different conditions of ground respond to the Word of God. This was a parable about His Kingdom and shows the importance our relationship with the Word of God has in the Kingdom of God coming through us.

In Jesus' parable, it was the good ground that brought forth fruit. The good ground was defined as ground into which the seed could deeply go. This speaks of ground that will saturate in the Word until it gets deep inside and brings forth fruit. Esther and the women in preparation did not have just a day of beauty, but a year of saturation. Their purification time required them to let the oil and perfume go deep within, and this speaks of the Word of God. When the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to us, it is not just doctrine and philosophy, it is the fragrant and living Word Himself. This is the Word the women were to saturate in, the Holy Spirit revealed Word that was Christ. They were to saturate in His

spirit and fragrant life. The word did not just effect her outwardly and then run off her surface, it did not come forth and then become forgotten, a fowl of the air did not steal it, and the cares of this world did not pull it away. For Esther, those oils could get into the good ground of her heart, because she had put off the mind of the flesh and was listening to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to have a relationship with us that overshadows us completely so that we might be swallowed up in an environment of the living Word that will be revealed in us and come forth as Life. In order to cooperate with the Holy Spirit's preparations we must ponder the Word and choose to live in an environment of the Spirit rather than in an environment of the carnal mind. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God help to create that environment, but we must keep that carnal mind off the throne by embracing the cross daily. It is necessary to remain in that environment until the day Christ is revealed and you see the King face to face and are changed into His image.

Resistance to the Word of God will prevent the renewal of the mind. Esther's mind did not fight the process and reject what the King's servants shared with her. She did not refuse her new identity by saying, "I can not believe what the Word says that I am." Everything went in because she chose to believe and receive the Word of God. She had been prepared of the Spirit to enter in to union with the King. She was ground that allowed the saturation of the Word to go deep, preparing her mind for transformation into His glorious likeness. Once again, may we not glory in the condition of our "dirt" but put the emphasis on the treasure of Christ's Life forming in us (II Cor. 4:7). Her heart was ready to see the King face to face and be changed by the power of the Spirit from glory to glory into that same image (II Cor. 3:17-18). We will be transformed and renewed when we see Him Who is our Life, beauty and glory! May we obey the eternal call upon our lives to be vessels of the Son, transformed in the Spirit of our minds so that Christ Himself can live through us. God is looking for those whose obedience flows out from a union and oneness with Christ that will result in a Bride filled with His nature. That is the issue of His heart.

A Renewed Mind is the Crown in the Kingdom of God

"So Esther was taken into King Ahasueras, the King royal, in the tenth month, which is the month, tibith, in the seventh year of his reign. And the King loved Esther above all the women, she obtained grace" (Esther 2:16). "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me"

(Galatians 1:15-16).

The day comes for us to go in and see the King face to face. It is not just another day, it is THE day where the DAYSTAR Himself dawns in our hearts and Christ is revealed in us (II Peter 1:19). It is the spiritual day when we are prepared for the revelation of Jesus Christ. All other days have merely been preparation for this day. When Esther's time came to see the King in his chamber, she obtained grace in his sight more than all the other virgins (Esther 2:17). The scriptures say that when he saw her he loved her. Who does God love above all else, but His Son? She had not prepared herself by trying to make herself

attractive to him through her own works and methods. She had relied totally upon what the Spirit brought and spoke to her, seen in Hegai and Mordecia. What else does the Spirit share with us and add to us but Christ Himself? The King saw one who was identifying in his life. She had a heart full of his words. She was not cleaving to her old mind and identity. She was ready for the King to renew her mind and bring her into union with His spirit and nature. And so the King did what no man could do, **He set the royal crown upon her head**. He renewed her mind. She did not do it, he did. What is the crown? Another mind. Herein the true Headship of Christ is being established in a believer. That is the crown in the Kingdom of God, that you have been renewed in the spirit of your mind. He set that crown on her and made her queen instead of Vashti. This can speak to us concerning our own conformity to Christ through the renewing of our minds. Vashti and Esther can represent the same person going through this process. The end is not a repentant and improved Vashti. Vashti is gone for the mind of the flesh has been crucified and put off. Esther is new for she has been transformed through the renewing of her mind. The very spirit and nature of her mind is Christ in a living way. This crown is no longer just a ceremonial symbol, rather it is the mind of the Husband in His Bride. Now His heart can safely trust in her (Proverbs 31:11).

Another Feast

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7).

Then the King made another great feast. This time his heart would not be disappointed because Esther was with him in true oneness and would respond to him as his bride. For the King's heart, it was time to make merry for someone has come into a fellowship beyond doctrine into union of life. A wedding feast! The renewed mind can truly partake of this feast for it will not reject the Lord's Word but receive it deep within and bring forth fruit, like a wife should. Now it is time to really partake of the word of God like we never have before. Now we are going to know Christ in all His fullness, the breadth; the length, the depth, and the height. We are going to be filled (Eph. 3:18-19). Why? Because now our mind can receive the Word of God properly. When He speaks, we are not just inspired, we are transformed. Jesus is not trying to inspire His Bride but make her one with Him in spirit and nature. When He speaks, the spirit of our mind is renewed. This is the feast that he meant to have with Vashti, but Vashti could not partake of that feast for her mind, the carnal mind, would not receive His word. She could not be a part of that feast because the carnal mind is at war with God, not in fellowship with Him. The royal crown on Vashti's head was not a renewed mind, but a ceremonial symbol, Esther had the royal crown on her head because she had been renewed in the spirit of her mind and had received the very life of the King as her own life and mind. He is her crown and her glory and therefore she is his true representation.

The Proof is Laying Down Your Life

“And so will I go in unto the King, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish”(Esther 4:16b). “Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife” (Revelation 21:9b).

The proof that Esther's mind truly was renewed came the day she needed to lay down her life for others. The carnal mind is independent and selfish. It will avoid the altar at all costs, for only the Lamb is a willing sacrifice. Yet the scriptures in Revelation declare that the Bride is specifically the Lamb's wife. To function as the Lamb's wife requires us to have the mind of Christ. If we are not renewed in the very nature of our mind, then we will not go the way of the Lamb. When Esther was faced with possible death on the behalf of her people, her reply was, “If I perish, I perish.” When the day came for her to respond as the wife of the Lamb, she did it. And that is the proof. The renewing of the mind is the beginning, but the manifestation that your mind truly has been renewed is the day that you lay down your life by the spirit of your Husband, the Lamb. That is when you know the nature of your mind is brand new. How important to comprehend that it is the very nature of our mind that is being renewed. Christ is indeed being formed in us. Facts about the Lamb of God stored up in our brain will never cause us to embrace the altar for others. Only the mind of Christ in someone will constrain them to willingly lose that others might gain. She really was the queen because she laid down her life for the people. Our Husband, the Lamb, wants to manifest His glory through those who are of His same kind in spirit and nature.

The true manifestation of the Kingdom of God happens through those who have so deeply embraced the Cross of Christ that they have lost their old identity and been transformed from the inside out by the Life of Christ. This happens through the renewing of the mind by the Holy Spirit and the preparations of the heart by the Bride. If you have one part without the other then it will never happen. Yes, the Holy Spirit alone can reveal the Son to us and in us, but we must set our heart towards Him. When the Spirit and the Bride together cry, “Come Lord Jesus”, you get the manifestation of the Lamb in His Bride. Then there is no longer two but one, for she has entered into union with the Divine Nature through oneness with Christ. When the two stay apart because she will not yield to the work of the Holy Spirit, then you have two in nature and attitude, and there is no royal crown or glory. There is no extension of His Kingdom in the earth through His Bride.

“The renewing of the mind is the beginning, but the manifestation that your mind truly has been renewed is the day that you lay down your life by the spirit of your husband, the Lamb.”

For Such a Time As This

“For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this”

(Esther 4:14)?

Now we can see that all her preparations were not just for her own individual growth, but for something even greater that lay in her future. All the Jews in the Kingdom would have perished if she had not gone through this process. Her life was set forth to be an extension of His death in the earth so life could come to the Jews. Mordecai said to her, “Could it be that everything that has happened to you up to this point is for such a time as this, that you would go into death?” Everything that had happened up to this point has been for such a time as going into death so that life could come in others. Her whole existence is down to this day, the issues of getting her mind renewed were so much more than her own personal maturity. The people of God needed someone who could bring forth the Lamb on their behalf. Haman had sentenced them to sure death, yet Esther had opportunity to pour out her life on their behalf.

We are the vehicle of the Lamb. The Lord Jesus Christ cannot extend forth His Life through us if we deny the bearing of His nature in us. We can not fully bear the dying of the Lord Jesus in our mortal flesh if sin is dwelling in our members and we can not stop it. If we are yet unrenewed in the spirit of our mind, then when the day comes to perish, the law of sin that is in us will say, “I will not do that which I want to do. I am in bondage to the old man.” But if our hearts keep turning away from self unto our Christ our Life, choosing to identify in Him, then we will keep saying, “Not my old father, not my old mother, not my old man, not my old life; Holy Spirit reveal my true identity in me. Holy Spirit prepare me for the King and create an environment of renewing about me. Saturate me deep inside with the living Word of God. Continue the process for six months, twelve months, as long as it takes until the King sets that royal crown on my head and I am renewed in the spirit and nature of my mind.” Jesus Christ will then save us from the body of sin and death, revealing His Life in us. The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus will overcome the law of sin and death that dwells in our members. We will then experientially know the glorious liberty of the sons of God who lay down their lives and have the inward freedom to say, “I will go into death because my members function as members of the Lamb and not of the flesh. I will respond to the indwelling mind and Life of the Head of the risen Body, and not to the carnality of the old man.” These are the issues that the Bride needs to take so close into her heart that she begins to separate herself unto the preparations for the revelation of Jesus Christ. She will then immerse herself in an environment of the Word of God. She will not allow the Word get eaten by the fowls of the air or stolen away by the cares of this life. She will not rejoice for a season and then soon forget that her roots must go deep until she is changed from the inside out into His glorious likeness. She will reject

using the Word of God to add knowledge to herself, but cleave to the Cross until Christ comes forth. Her heart will become like a womb for the Word of God to grow in. Her relationship with the Holy Spirit will draw Him to overshadow her until Christ comes forth.

Conclusion

The Lord wants to make this process so practical and real to us that we will embrace the possibility of truly being conformed to the image of the Son. He wants a Bride that is the wife of the Lamb, who shines forth His nature transparently. Then people will not see the flesh, but the beauty of the Spirit of Christ through us. We all need that, and we all want the Lord in that way. We are one in Christ and in His heart we are one Bride. The Lord and the Holy Spirit are right here to draw us into the place where we can separate our hearts unto His eternal purpose in the midst of our everyday lives. We may not be able to separate our schedules, our flesh or other such things; but we can separate our hearts unto the Holy Spirit and allow Him to be Hegai the chamberlain and give Him authority to be as Mordecai our guide. This does not require a schedule change, or us trying to make our own nature change by the works of the flesh and strength of our own will. It simply requires a turning of the heart.***



Discussion Questions for Part Two:

“Esther– Preparing For A New Mind”

1. Discuss how Esther represents a mind that is willing to prepare herself to be transformed by the Life of Christ.
2. Discuss the importance of being willing to break with old concepts so that the Holy Spirit can take us out of our old identity and bring us into our new identity as one with Jesus in the very spirit of our minds.
3. How is the Holy Spirit functioning as a chamberlain helping to prepare the Church for the Bridegroom by forming Christ in us?
4. In what ways can we gather together as those who desire to be prepared as a Bride adorned for her Husband? How can we allow the King’s servants, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to help make ready our minds for the revelation of Jesus Christ?
5. God is not looking at our flesh, but seeking for those who will leave their old identity and nature to embrace Christ as their Life. God does not care if we are the sweetest and best in the Kingdom; for if it is not Christ in us, then He rejects it. God is not looking for the most committed and the most loving, rather He is looking for someone who will reject their own resources and allow Christ to become their everything. How do these truths protect us from comparing ourselves among ourselves?
6. How does the truth of the Cross keep us from glorying in our flesh and working on improving our good qualities rather than embracing that we are crucified with Christ and only His life will be our beauty and acceptance?
7. Some of these virgins may have had a lot of stuff they added to themselves in those twelve months of preparations, but none of those things pleased the King. Discuss how we can encourage one another to not work on ourselves, but rather to cultivate our hearts to saturate in Christ by putting off our old selves and putting on the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. Chapter 3).
8. Mary was only preparing herself with what the Holy Spirit gave her, which was the Seed of Christ. Likewise, Esther would only add unto herself what Hegai the King’s chamberlain gave her. Discuss how we need to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ in us as our preparation as a Bride.

Discussion Questions Continued:

9. Mary was prepared as a vessel of honor by being impregnated with Christ. Her purification was the Seed of God in her womb. She became overshadowed by the Spirit, and then she brought forth Jesus. Esther too, became overshadowed with the preparations of the Holy Spirit and eventually laid down her life for others, which is a picture of Christ as Life in the believer. Discuss how Christ Himself in us is our purification.

10. Saturation speaks of a process that requires a continual bathing until the substance has changed the person. Jesus told the disciples that were serious about being changed to continue in His word (Jn. 8:31). Mary, the mother of Jesus, did not just hear God's Word and then forget it, she pondered the word by holding it in her heart and meditating on it. How can we become good ground that is open to the Holy Spirit bringing forth Christ in us?

11. Good ground brings forth Christ. Discuss how we can spend our time decorating the earthen vessel rather than allowing it to be filled with Christ. If our focus is not on bringing forth Christ we will waste our times of saturation. How can we cultivate hearts that will nurture the Life of Christ within rather than working on self improvement?

12. When the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to us, it is not just doctrine and philosophy, it is the fragrant and living Word Himself. This is the Word the women were to saturate in, the Holy Spirit revealed Word that was Christ. They were to saturate in His spirit and fragrant life. Discuss how we can choose to know Christ in a living way rather than just seeking to know doctrines and facts about Him.

13. Esther was good ground and the saturation of the Word went deep, preparing her mind for transformation into His glorious likeness. What does the parable in Matthew 13 have to say about good ground and how can that relate to us today?

14. The King did what no man could do, *He set the royal crown upon her head.* This is a picture of our mind being renewed by receiving and conforming to the mind of Christ. Here we see a picture of the true Headship of Christ being established in a believer. Discuss how this is meant for every member of the Body of Christ.

15. Discuss this statement, "To function as the Lamb's wife requires us to have the mind of Christ. If we are not renewed in the very nature of our mind, then we will not go the way of the Lamb".

Personal Notes

"God I want my heart to be pliable so that I can be someone that you can mold and speak Your Word into. I want to be willing to break with old concepts so that You can take me out of my old identity and bring me into my new identity as one with Jesus in the very spirit of my mind."

This is a Fire Ministries article by Kelly Koshatka
that is meant to draw your heart closer to the
Person of our Lord and Life, Jesus Christ.

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