

Vashti to Esther

The Journey of the Mind

Part One:

The Need For A New Mind

Vashti

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 bone and flesh of His flesh. 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. These are the issues that hold such great importance to the heart of the Lord, Who is our King and our Husband.

The Book of Esther deals with these issues on a relational level. The Word of God in this Book can speak to our hearts in a fresh way that may cause us to reconsider our relationship with the Lord and our need to prepare our minds for the revelation of Jesus Christ. 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. The beginning of our reading is going to be Vashti's feast, and the end of our reading is Esther's feast. These two feasts are very, very different because the two minds of these women are also very different.

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 shew 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 don’t have Christ in manifestation if you have not conformed to His image.

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. A born again believer has been raised up with Christ as bone of His bone 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. 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, for the spirit of Vashti's mind did not bear the nature of her husband and so she moved as separate from him. 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 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 can't 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 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 husbands 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).

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. It was not due to the external disgrace before men or 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, from the 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 has yet to conform to the spirit of Christ, her risen Head.

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 risen Head. 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 do 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”. 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 is more than a math equation in the book of Romans, it is something of the heart of Jesus helping us to see that 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 risen Head." Only by having the mind of Christ functioning in us can this dilemma be remedied.

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 this oneness 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 its 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 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 in this corner 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.

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 the renewing of our minds.

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 had touched the whole Kingdom. The Queen, who most significantly it the wife of the King, is supposed to represent him in the earth, and she had now misrepresented him in the earth by not coming forth in his image. This is basically what the wise men told 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 in His image. They may assume that this is how Christianity is supposed to be. They will look at us and think, “If I am a Christian, (someone who is united to Christ in His death and resurrection), then I too can reject the heart and word of the Lord and

still consider myself to be relating to Him as a part of His Bride.” These people will not observe someone who shines forth with the nature of Christ, and yet they will see the title of Queen.

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 the King’s wife did 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 the 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 Body of Christ demonstrate the Life of Christ? If we care about the Lord’s heart and the fullness of His plan, then we will be open for God to deal with us concerning the renewing of our minds.***

This study is continued in the booklet entitled,
“Vashti To Esther”, The Journey of the Mind Part II:
Preparing For A New Mind”