

Vashti to Esther

The Journey of the Mind

Part Two: Preparing For A New Mind

Introduction

This little booklet is the continuation of part one which is entitled, “Vashti, The Need For A New Mind”. It might be helpful to first read part one as a preparation for the things shared in this booklet.

The aim of this sharing is to bring our hearts to focus on the deep need within the Lord for His Church to be brought forth in manifestation as a true representation of His spirit and nature. Beyond doctrinal correctness or ministerial requirement, the Body of Christ answers to the heart of Jesus as those who are with Him in oneness, bearing His very Life to others. In the light of these things, our focus becomes satisfying the heart of Jesus and being unto Him a wife in the true spirit of that union.

May we prepare our hearts to receive the ministry of the Holy Spirit in relation to God’s desire to reveal His Son in each one of us.

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 He can renew us in the spirit of our minds. 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). But God did provide His Lamb so that through His Cross all flesh would be removed that Christ might become our Life. God prepared His Lamb for us, now may we prepare our hearts to receive the fullness of what His death has brought forth. And yet the question may still remain, “What shall we do with Vashti, what shall we do with this unrenewed mind?” Although God alone can reveal His Son in us, 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 (Roms.7:17, 6:2,6). 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 (Roms. 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. Even beyond that we can say, “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.”

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 Hegei 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. There is a cry in the hearts of 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 help make ready our minds for the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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 we are members of Him corporately. In the Book of Revelation, 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 the heart of the one corporate bride. As the story shows us, Esther is the only one in which the King's eyes found pleasure. Her preparations fulfilled the King's desires and to her alone he gave his royal crown.

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 is all flesh. Flesh is flesh, and sweetness, softness or anything that is us before Christ is revealed 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 prettiest in the Kingdom; if it is not Christ in us, then He rejects it. He is not looking for the most committed and the most loving, rather He is looking for something very specific and Esther fit these qualifications.

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 Mordecai 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 is 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. She did not have an old man and she did not have a mother. She did not have anything but the Holy Spirit (Mordecai) 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 Him. "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 Kings 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 as representing the preparations of the heart to have Christ revealed within. She represents someone who is separating from the old creation and identifying with the Holy Spirit's view of who they are. When the Holy Spirit sees a heart in such a place as this, then everything in Him is going to rush over to bring forth the ingredients for Christ to be revealed. These are the things that drew forth the care and attention of the Holy Spirit (Hegai). The place that her heart was at was spiritually ripe and ready for a new mind to be revealed in her.

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 and by seeking for Christ's increase.

There are more 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 Hegai the King's chamberlain 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 coming forth as Life 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 saturation has gone deep into 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, rather 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 she was not good ground and could not be a vessel of honor that would bear the spirit of her husband. 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 the manifestation of the Son.

In Jesus’ parable in Matthew 13, 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 was not to just effect them outwardly and then run their surface. It was not to come forth and then become forgotten while other things became more important. A fowl of the air was not to steal it, and the cares of this world were not to pull it away. For Esther, those oils did get into the good ground of her heart, because she was ready to receive another Life. 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. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God help to create that environment. 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 her heart was ready. She had been prepared of the Spirit to enter in to union with the King. She was good ground and the saturation of the Word

went deep, preparing her mind for transformation into His glorious likeness. Her past had been removed and her heart was turned in the other direction, towards the Lord and not towards her old identity. 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 can be transformed and renewed by receiving His mind and nature. These things are the issues of importance to a bride's heart. These are the issues of our relationship with Christ. These are the things that God cares about, far above our obedience to His commands. He is looking for someone whose obedience flows out from oneness. 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 (Prov. 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 had 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 and bring forth fruit. 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 and overflowing (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 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 Esther has the King's spirit and could properly receive his words.

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 nature 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 (Rev. 21:9b).

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, God alone can reveal the Son to us and in us, but she must prepare her heart. When the Spirit and the bride together cry, "Come Lord Jesus", then there is the manifestation of the Lamb in His bride. Then there is no longer two in manifestation, but one, for she has left it all to conform to 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 and there is no glory. There is then no extension of His Kingdom in the earth through His bride.

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 far off 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 for others?" Everything that had happened up to this point had been for such a time as going into death for others. Her whole existence is down to this day, for the issues of getting her mind renewed were so much more than just 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.

The Body of Christ is 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 Christ our Life, choosing to identify in Him, then we will say, "Not my old father, not my old

mother, not my old man, not my old life; Holy Spirit reveal Christ 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, or 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 for His life will be revealed 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 revelation of Jesus Christ. She will then immerse herself in an environment of the Word of God. She will not allow the Word to 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.***