

THE KING'S DESIRE

Esther 1.10-11: What the King Desires of His Gentile Queen

Theme: Ask yourself if you desire what your King desires of you, His Gentile Bride (the Church).

Read & Review: Remember what we've seen thus far in Esther 1...

- **(v1-9) The Three Feasts:**
 1. (v1-4) The Feast for the Kingdom: There are no great problems in the kingdom... There is *peace*.
 2. (v5-8) The Feast for the Capital: There is also great *prosperity* which brings with it great *comfort*.
 3. (v9) The Feast for the Queen: But... here we saw a hint of the problem in the kingdom...
- **(v10-12) The Epic Failure (of the Queen):**
 1. (v10-11) The King's Desire (and here is where we started and left off last week)
 2. (v12) The Queen's Disobedience

(v10-11) The King's Desire: Some misunderstandings... and the seven servants sent with a message...

- The king, merry with wine (but not drunk!), sends his seven servants to the queen in order to give the queen his word (message) and bring her (prepared and adorned) into his presence.
- And with that we see the stage set in picture and type:
 - ✓ Our King has sent to His Bride a message, by the hand of the Holy Spirit.
 1. The seven consecrated messengers are a picture of the seven manifestations of God's Spirit.
 2. And, just like those seven messengers take the word (message) of the king to the queen, so the Spirit of God teaches us the Word of our King: *Scripture*.
 3. The seven messengers are charged with bringing the queen into the *presence* of the king, just like the Holy Spirit as He teaches us God's Word in order to draw us closer to our King.
 4. The seven servants are sent to help the queen *dress herself appropriately* with the “crown royal,” just as the Holy Spirit does in our lives: through His work we “put on Christ” (the new man).
- Now... what is it exactly that the King desires of His Queen...? The king desires three things of his bride...

I. **First: The king wanted Vashti in his presence.**

- A. We touched on this point last week, so we don't need to spend a lot of time with it here...
- B. (v11a) The king ordered his seven chamberlains to “bring Vashti the queen before the king.”
- C. Our King wants the same thing of us, His Gentile Bride: He wants us in His presence!
 - He wants us to allow His Holy Spirit (like the seven chamberlains) to bring us into His presence through Scripture and prayer each and every day.
- D. So here we can ask ourselves a couple very practical questions:
 1. (v9, 12) Does Vashti want to be in the presence of her husband, the king? Apparently not.
 2. Do *we* want to be in the presence of the Bridegroom, our King? Do we look forward to spending time with the Lord in Scripture and prayer? Or would we rather do our own thing?

II. **Second: The king wanted Vashti to wear the royal crown.**

- A. (v11b) Obviously the “crown royal” was the crown Vashti wore indicating *her* royalty (that she was the queen, the bride of the king, and as such she had certain ruling privileges).

B. Do you know what your King, the Bridegroom (the Lord Jesus Christ), wants you, His Gentile Bride, to wear? He wants you to wear the royal crown...

1. (Rom 8.17) The Lord wants us to be joint-heirs with Him.
2. (2Tim 2.12) He wants us to reign with Him, as His Bride.
3. But notice that in both of those passages, the offer is conditional:
 - a) (2Tim 2.12) If we deny the Lord our suffering with Him today, He will deny us the reigning with Him in His Kingdom.
 - b) (Rom 8.17) If we refuse to suffer with the Lord today in His mission in this world, then He will refuse us the glory of being joint-heirs with Him in the Millennium.
4. (Gal 5.19-21) Those who would choose to live according to the flesh (like Vashti: making their own decisions according to their own desires, rather than submitting to the desires of the king), they will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - a) They will enter the kingdom of God (if they are saved), but they will lose their inheritance.
 - b) (John 1.12-13; 3.3-8) We enter the kingdom of God by birth.
 - c) (1Cor 3.13-15; 2Cor 5.10) Our inheritance (reigning with Christ) is conditional and depends on our works (what we do with what Christ said).
5. (Eph 5.5) No one who lives in disobedience to the King (like Vashti) will “wear the royal crown” (they will lose their inheritance).
 - a) Wearing the “royal crown” depends on our obedience to the Word of the King as delivered to us by the Holy Spirit who was sent by the King.
 - b) In other words: Our inheritance (reigning with Christ) depends on our submission and obedience to the Scripture as taught to us by the Spirit (not by our own interpretation).
6. And so we can ask ourselves another couple questions:
 - a) (v12) Does Vashti submit to and obey the message sent to her by the king? Does that affect her reigning with the king (v19)?
 - b) How about us? Do you want to reign with the King?
 - (1) Do you want to lose the privilege of reigning with the King?
 - (2) Are you humble, submissive, and obedient to the King's Word?
 - (3) Or do you sit in judgment on God's Word (above it, criticizing it)? Or do you have a frivolous, apathetic, indifferent attitude toward His Word?

III. **Third: The king wanted Vashti to show her beauty to the people.**

A. **Vashti was beautiful to look on.**

1. Her name (Vashti) means *beautiful woman*.
2. She was to wear the royal apparel and the royal crown, making her even more attractive.

B. **And what King Ahasuerus asked of her was the same thing asked of the “First Lady” today...**

1. He did not ask her anything inappropriate. He did not ask of her anything difficult.
2. He asked his wife, the queen, to be by his side to please him and glorify him as king.

C. **Our mission as the Bride of Christ is the same!**

1. (Gal 5.22-23) Our King wants His Bride to be beautiful in **holiness**.
 - a) (1Chron 16.29) Our worship of the Lord is directly related to our growing in holiness.
 - b) (Ps 29.2; 96.9) Worship is not about music that is emotionally uplifting to me... Worship is about holiness and holiness is Christ-likeness / godliness.

2. (Rom 13.14) Our King desires for us to be in His presence dressed in the royal apparel—He desires for us to be dressed in holiness... to put on the new man... to put on Christ. That is our *beauty*.
3. (Acts 1.8) And He has commanded us to put that beauty on display before all people...
 - a) It is to be a *blessing* to the people.
 - b) And it is to *please* and *glorify* the King.

D. (v12a) But what does Vashti decide to do?

1. And what has the Church, the Bride of Christ, decided to do today...?
 - a) Does she put on the Lord Jesus Christ—is she growing in holiness?
 - (1) Are churches today focused on and committed to *learning* Christ by *learning* Scripture?
 - (2) Are churches today focused on and committed to *living* as Christ by *obeying* Scripture?
 - b) Does the Church, the Bride of Christ, put the beauty of Christ on display for the world through the *preaching of the gospel*?
2. (v12b) And what is the reaction of the king...?
 - a) And do you think the reaction of the Lord Jesus Christ is to the state of modern churches?
 - b) Do you think the Lord is pleased with Christendom today?

Conclusion:

In Esther 1 we are reading about the rebellion of the Gentile queen (Vashti is dethroned).

1. (v1-9) The Three Feasts: We see peace... prosperity (comfort)... and a hint of the problem...
2. (v10-12) The Queen's Failure: The epic failure of Queen Vashti (which gets her dethroned).
 - (v10-11) Thus far we have seen the first two verses of this passage: The king's desire (what did he want of Vashti?).
 - (v12) In our next message, we'll take some time to study the queen's disobedience (what she wanted in spite of the king's desire, and what that means for us today).

But, this morning let's think about what we've seen: *What did the king want from his Gentile bride?*

- He sent his seven consecrated servants with his word to his bride...
- And his bride received that message loud and clear...
 1. The king wants you in his presence.
 2. The king wants you to wear the royal crown (showing your position, reigning with him).
 3. The king wants you to show your beauty to all the people (to please the king and glorify him).

What is the *main lesson* for us this morning? What is the *main question* that remains?

- First: Do you understand what the King, the Lord Jesus Christ, desires of you, His Gentile Bride?
 - ✓ It's clear to read in the Bible. And our submission to the King *is* submission to His Word (the Bible).
 - ✓ Many say they know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, but they (like Vashti) refuse to accept the Word of the King (Scripture) as their sole and final authority. They (like Vashti) live how they want.
- Finally: Do *you* desire what your King desires of you...? Have you submitted to His desires...? Or are you like Vashti (“*I'd prefer not*”)?
 - ✓ Don't be a Vashti!
 - ✓ ***It's simple: Read the Bible (love it!) and do what it says (live it!).***