



2/17/26

*Today's passage reminds me of a conversation I used to have with my daughter. One day she just started saying this to me... and it stuck. She's almost 30 years old and we still repeat these phrases back to each other once in a while. As a little girl, she just started saying to me out of the blue, "You're a doll. You're a smart cookie. You have a beautiful heart." I imagine this is what people said about Esther.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Esther 2*

*So... King Ahasuerus, in his drunken rage, has just stripped his queen, Vashti, of her throne. The stage has been set. There's a bigger picture going on. Why does it matter that a pagan king has been so arrogantly impulsive with his pagan wife? God is setting the stage to use His chosen daughter to preserve the people of Israel so that He can one day send His promised Son through this prophetic lineage to be the Savior of the world. Oh my! In a story like this... seeing the magnitude of what it points to... I realize that I MUST view my own life through God's eternal perspective. It's far bigger than just the here and now.*

*Now I come to the next part of this story that never mentions God's name, and yet has His hand all over it in Esther 2 ~*

*I don't know how long it had been, but the king's anger had finally calmed. He now remembered what Queen Vashti did by disrespecting him, and he remembered the decree that he signed against her. She would no longer be his wife, and he would start the search for another one.*

*His servants made a suggestion. "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king." The Hebrew actually says, "Let beautiful, beautiful young virgins be sought out..." The first beautiful is about their character... Let them be pleasant, agreeable, not just nice to look at. The second beautiful is about their appearance... Let them be gorgeous, hot babes. In the king's opinion, Queen Vashti was beautiful to look at, but not so beautiful in character.*

*The servants went on with their idea. "Send officers all over your 127 provinces to find all the beautiful, beautiful young virgins and bring them to the harem in Susa under the leadership of Hegai, your head eunuch." Whoa! He already had a harem? Greedy! This is like the original "Bachelor in Paradise!" The king was the bachelor, and he got to pick his next queen from ALL the young women who were brought to him. The only difference was, they didn't have a choice.*

*Well... there just happened to be a young Jewish woman named Hadassah, otherwise known as Esther, who was being raised by her Uncle Mordecai. Mordecai had been taken from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar when the Jews were taken into Babylonian captivity. Mordecai probably knew Daniel, or at least he knew of Daniel. He was raising Esther because her parents had died.*

*Esther was stunning. She was beautiful in every way. So, of course, she was taken to the palace and put in custody of Hegai. Hegai took notice of her right away and she became his favorite.*

*This reminds me of Joseph, when he was sold into slavery by his brothers. God also used Joseph to save His people by eventually putting him as second in command in Egypt. But before that, Joseph had been sold into slavery and then falsely accused and put in prison. During those years scripture says that Joseph found favor with his captors, just as Esther did. But in Joseph's story, it was clearly stated that it was because the Lord was with him. Though it was not stated in this story, I know the Lord was absolutely with Esther, even if she didn't know it at the time. There is no evidence in this story that Esther was following the Lord, though I do believe her Uncle Mordecai was. His faith was evident in how he handled himself throughout the story.*

*Side note... This is an interesting point. I don't always get the opportunity to verbally share my faith with others. But I hope and pray my actions and attitudes will reflect the love of God. Just as Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God", even though the sky doesn't speak, I pray that my demeanor will declare the glory of God so that when I do speak, my words will have credibility. If my character doesn't reflect the Lord, my words will mean nothing.*

*Back to the story. Hegai, the king's eunuch (meaning he had been castrated... probably so that there would be no shenanigans with the king's women) treated Esther better than any of the other women. He provided the best of everything... beauty products, food, whatever she needed. He even gave her 7 maidservants from the harem to attend to her needs.*

*Another side note... As a woman, it is very easy to get caught up in appearance. It is very easy to slip into the mindset that my value is found in how pretty I am, and to act as though God shows partiality by giving some women more beauty than others. But I see here that Esther's beauty had a purpose. The king would not have considered her if she had not been beautiful in character and appearance. But God's purpose was to use her to save His people. No matter what I am looking at about myself... body, soul, or spirit... God has a purpose. He wastes nothing. Let me be about HIS purpose, and not my small-minded minuscule ideas of what matters.*

*Vs. 10 is a really important detail. Esther had not let anyone know of her lineage. Mordecai, who checked on her every single day, told her not to tell anyone that she was a Jew. I'm not sure why he told her not to, but I AM sure this was part of God's plan. I also see that it's great that Esther was obedient to Mordecai! How much would it have messed things up if she had ignored his directive? Lord, this is important for me!!! YOU give me great commands that if I will follow, will lead me to peace and joy regardless of the circumstances. But if I think, "Well, I don't know why You are commanding this, so I will ignore it," things will not go well!!! Help me to listen to You, and if I don't know what You are saying, help me to wait until You make it clear... but never take matters into my own hands!*

*Esther had gone through a full year of beauty preparations. And then she was summoned to go to the king. She was told she could take whatever she wanted with her. Ummm... I think she had to sleep with him. She went at night and was sent to the second harem in the morning under the leadership of Shaashgaz, another eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. (Holy moly! How many women did this king have???) The only way she'd ever see the king again is if he delighted in her and summoned to see her again.*

*When Esther's turn came to go to the king, she only took whatever Hegai suggested. By this point, everybody thought she was awesome... including the king. He loved her more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight. He decided that she was the one! He put a crown on her head and made her his queen.*

*Then he had a party! This party was a feast for Esther. He was so overjoyed to have this woman as his wife that he cut taxes and gave really generous gifts to all the provinces. Wow... a little different outcome than the last party.*

*So... around this time, Mordecai had been sitting in the gate, and he discovered a plot by two of the king's eunuchs who planned to kill the king. Whoa! Mordecai told Queen Esther of the plot, and she told the king in the name of Mordecai. After it was investigated and found to be true, the king had the two eunuchs hanged, and the incident was recorded in the book of the chronicles, the history books. This is another really important detail that won't be understood until later. But I can see God's hand all over it AGAIN!*

*Let me never allow what I see in front of me to dictate what I believe about the Lord. All the little details, by themselves, might make it look like God is not involved. But when I step back and look at the whole picture, I see that He is all over it!*

*O Lord, I pray that You will give me the strength to have the obedience of Esther... to trust YOU completely. I may not be the most beautiful in appearance, especially as I age, but I pray that I will be beautiful in character... as You grow in me the "hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in Your sight is VERY PRECIOUS" (1 Peter 3:4). Let me be beautiful with the beauty that pleases my KING, Jesus Christ.*