

Chapter Sixteen

A Time to Speak

Esther 5:1-8

The *Rule*: Proverbs 25:6...**“Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king...”**

The *Reality*: Esther 4:13 and 14...**“For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time...think not with thyself that thou shalt escape...”**, nor, **“...all the Jews.”**

The *Remedy*: Esther 5:1...Though weak from fasting and prayer, **“Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king’s house....”**

“Mordecai is right,” Esther thought. “...Who knoweth whether...” I am “...come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Even if this means my death; I *must* speak to the King!”

“And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing [See, Psalm 45:9b] in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.” Esther 5:2

Ahasuerus thinks to himself, “This is a *first!* Esther must need something *really* important-to track me down here! I wonder if she knows I was going to send for her today anyway.” Now staring intensely at Esther, he continues,

“This makes my day. *She is absolutely beautiful.* I’m so glad to see her, I could just...*bust!*”

Esther interrupts his train of thought by saying, “Good morning Your Majesty. *It’s so good to see you.*”

“It’s *wonderful* to see you too, my Queen!”

Under her breath, “*Pssshew*, that’s a relief!!!”

“*What was that?* I didn’t hear you.”

“Oh, I said, I’m glad *YOU said*, ‘you’re glad to see me *too!*’”

“Yes, I was thinking about you just this morning. How wonderful we were able to connect right here in my court.” Thinking again to himself; “Esther seems a little nervous. I’m gonna set her mind at ease...”

...“Then said the King unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee unto half of the kingdom.” Esther 5:3

We will continue this dialogue later. For now, turn *back* in your Bible to Esther chapter one. Read along with me, in verse nine...

“Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women IN THE ROYAL HOUSE which belonged the King.”

Vashti, if you recall, who represents the *fallen* flesh, had a slumber party in the King’s royal house, and “...REFUSED to come...” at his “...commandment...” (Esther 1:12) Queen Esther, on the other hand, a *resurrected* star, “...*NOT...called to come in unto the king...*” (Esther 4:11b), was, in *her* flesh, HESITANT to go-proving that, for at least the time she hesitated, Esther was no better than Vashti.

Had the King called for Esther, like he called for Vashti, and she, like Vashti, refused to come; I wonder how well this second Queen would have fared? I warn you, you might *not* like the answer. Esther would have been banished from the

Kingdom, *just like Vashti!* By the way, I'm saying exactly the same thing Jesus would have said on this subject!...

“That which is of the flesh IS flesh.” John 3:6

The sweetest *Saint*, and the vilest *Sinner*, both have one thing in common. Flesh! All flesh is the *same!* Since *BOTH* Queens possessed the same *awful* flesh, had Esther been caught walking after the flesh, like Vashti was, she would've been banished from the kingdom too!!! Don't forget; the subject here is NOT relationship (salvation), but FELLOWSHIP (communion)!

Since every lost *Sinner's* soul is stuck to its owner's flesh, the “...motions of sins...” (Romans 7:5) continue to work in his/her body, until/unless they get saved. A *Saint*, on the other hand, “...is alive from the dead...” (Romans 6:13), but still lives in his/her mortal body-[now a corpse (Romans 7:24)], and has gained the liberty to walk in Christ. Remember Paul's command to BELIEVERS everywhere...

“Let NOT sin therefore reign in your MORTAL BODY, that ye should obey it in the lust thereof.” Romans 6:12

Those who do are not walking in Christ. AND THOSE WHO DO, ARE NOT COMMUNING WITH THE KING!!

Let's go further. When Christ arose from the dead, he was no longer the same. The “flesh and blood” [I Corinthians 15:50-Expression. Concerning Christ, John 1:14; I John 5:6] body he “wore” at the beginning, was PUT OFF to PUT ON a body of “...flesh and bones...” (Luke 24:39) Without this change; He could have never ascended (Ephesians 4:9) into The ROYAL Court of Heaven “...to appear in the presence of God...” (Hebrews 9:24) Since the Book of Esther pictures the Kingdom of *Heaven*, ESTHER REPRESENTS CHRIST'S *JEWISH* BODY. IN TYPE, SHE HAS PUT OFF THE OLD MAN-BY WALKING IN MORDECAI'S DEATH AND BURIAL, AND, THREE DAYS LATER, HAS PUT ON THE NEW MAN-BY WALKING IN HIS ROYAL RESURRECTED BODY [represented by her *royal* apparel].

Why, with no objections, was Esther allowed to appear in the very presence of the King? That's easy. The victory over her flesh made her more beautiful (in *spiritual* terms-holy, sinless, and pure) than he's ever seen her before. This Queen was now *true* ROYALTY!

Now let's apply to you and me, all that we have learned from Esther. Any new creature¹ (Christian), walking in the new nature (Christ), is allowed to enter the King's court! BUT THAT'S NOT THE END OF THE STORY!!! There's one more thing that needs to happen; before COMMUNION with the King can begin. Look again at Esther 5:2; to see if you can figure out what still needs to happen...

“And it was so, when the king saw Esther the Queen standing in the court [She already was in the *throne room*], that she obtained favour in his sight [because she had all the telltale

¹ Called a “CREATURE” in Christ, because the old NATURE of the fallen CREATURE is restored to the way it was before the fall. (II Corinthians 5:17) Remember; every true Believer has already had an inward transfiguration! Therefore, the term “new” CREATION”, in all the “new” bibles, is wrong!

signs of resurrected royalty]: **and the king held out to Esther THE GOLDEN SCEPTRE that was in his hand.** [An offer of FELLOWSHIP was made, BUT THE TRANSACTION WAS NOT FULLY COMPLETED UNTIL...] **...Esther drew near, and TOUCHED THE TOP OF THE SCEPTRE.”**

I'd like to point out, that Esther did not reach for her *Husband's hand*. Nor (like the *sinner* of Luke seven) did she reach for his *feet*. Esther showed us the *proper* protocol to approach a *ROYAL* King; when she reached for his *POWER*-The Golden Sceptre.

Union with the King, through The Golden Sceptre, made communion possible.

Location, Location, Location!

Saved or Lost, the results are the same: Death to anyone seeking communion with The King, who hadn't *first* been offered His Golden Sceptre! If you don't believe me, maybe you'll believe what Esther had to say on this subject!

“...Whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one LAW OF HIS to put him to death, EXCEPT such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live....” Esther 4:11

Esther was able to commune with her King, only because fellowship was *first* offered her at “the business end” of a *golden* stick. Any fear of rejection was asswaged², the moment she touched it.³

Did you ever wonder why Christ is said to be seated *at* “...the right *HAND* of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens...”? (Hebrews 8:1 and 10:12) If we simply believe what we are reading, the answer will become quite evident the moment we read Esther 5:2...

“...The king held out...the golden sceptre that was in his *HAND*...”

Not only does Christ typify Esther's Royal Apparel (seen in Esther 5:1), but He typifies The Golden Sceptre *too!* Positionally, today, *Jesus Christ IS The King's Golden Sceptre, held by Him in His strong and mighty (right) hand.*

Take note: Christ is typified in The Book of Esther; in the same sense He is typified throughout the Old Testament Tabernacle. There is no greater evidence of this, than the furniture in the Tabernacle whereupon sin was mediated. In Exodus chapters 25 to 40, Moses was commanded by God to make furniture of wood overlaid with gold, picturing

² Spelled like the AV spells it in Job 16:6.

³ No golden sceptre was offered Vashti, nor Adam for that matter-who were no longer ROYAL, the moment they sinned. (Genesis 3:8 to 10) This should forever settle *why* both were banished from their respective paradisiacal kingdoms. (Genesis 3:23 and 24-Would you leave a hungry sinner in the vicinity of a fruit that would let them and their offspring live forever in a *fallen* condition? Neither would God! Would you leave a stubborn queen in the vicinity of other “ladies” (Esther 1:18) *who might follow after*, in her wayward steps? Neither would Ahasuerus!) Again, no golden sceptre was offered Adam and Vashti, because *these transgressors, no longer royal, were now only capable of walking after the flesh.*

Christ's unusual nature: humanity-*wood* and deity-*gold*. These pictures of the tabernacle; like those in Esther four, portray what would become our Saviour's (future-then, past-now) work of redemption *on* Calvary's cross.

By the time we get to Esther chapter five, the cross is no longer in view. This chapter pictures *Heaven, AFTER* the cross...

“...Now that he [Christ] ascended...” on high, He [The King] **“...set him at his own right *HAND* in the heavenly places....”** Ephesians 4:9 and 2:20b

After the resurrection, any resemblance of Christ to humanity (wood) was lost. (I Corinthians 15:49; John 11:25) Like the “good gold” in “...the land of Havilah...” *before* the fall (Genesis 2:11 and 12), today, Christ Jesus is *PURE GOLD* in The King's Royal hand.

At this point, you might be asking, “what does this all have to do with me?” Okay, I'll answer that for you. “Everything!” Christ *was* our mediator for SALVATION, but *today* He *is* also our mediator for *COMMUNICATION. FELLOWSHIP!* Permit me to give you an example of what I'm saying here. Suppose you were drowning in the middle of the ocean. And from far away, a shipmaster, through binoculars, saw you perishing in that water. And let's say, he sent his own son-an expert scuba diver, whom he made Captain-down to save you. And finally, let's say, in so doing, he was pierced through and later died in that billowy water, to give you life. (HERE'S THE QUESTION...) Do you think, after his son just died to save you, that the shipmaster wouldn't ask you to contact him again? Of course not! *The scenario would be just the opposite.* The shipmaster would want you to contact him as often as possible. He may even try to be friends with you; especially since you were thankful that he sent his only son to save you. Don't you agree? The truth is; you and he now have something in common. And that “*something*”, is the death of his son!! That being said, then let's agree, the shipmaster will be glad to hear from you *as often as possible.*

The blood placed on the altar of the true tabernacle in Heaven gave us something to talk about with Heaven's Shipmaster. Remember; His Son's blood gave us life! *The victory that saved us is the same victory that gives us access to The Throne for fellowship!!* The day Esther put on her royal apparel to stand in the inner court; the King put the every day drudgery of his kingdom on hold. Why? *The ROYAL Queen was calling!*

Christian, are you (like Esther) having trials and tribulations in your life too? If so, are you doing what's required to get victory over them? Remember what Esther did. She first got her instructions from Mordecai [Jesus] (Esther 4:8); fasted; and asked her fellow sisters to do likewise. (Esther 4:16) She then went by faith [“...which is not according to the law...”] (Esther 4:16), willing to lose her life. (Matthew 10:39, Esther 4:16c-“...If I perish, I perish.”) And finally, she *confidently and boldly* approached her King to get the help she needed. (Esther 5:1 and 2)

May I say, access to the throne does not guarantee contact with the King, anymore than-the hackneyed expression by Christians who are ever insisting on a *second* way of access, when quoting-the “when God closes a door He opens a window” approach. There is only *ONE* way to the King for *salvation*, and there is only *ONE* way to the King for *fellowship*. Even the King's *wife* had to follow this protocol.

“*The only way to The Throne is through THE GOLDEN SCEPTRE.*” The “...Lord Jesus Christ...” is THE GOLDEN SCEPTRE⁴ “...by whom also we have access...” to the Throne of God! (Romans 5:1 and 2) That’s why we can “...glory in our tribulations...” (Romans 5:3). We know once our “...requests are made known unto God...” (Philippians 4:6), we, like Esther, will “...have the petitions that we desired of him.” (I John 5:15b) And it is here; we once again resume our dialogue. (Read verse three of chapter five to pick up where we left off.)

Speaking to herself again, Esther says, “Is he *really* willing to give me up to *half* of his kingdom? I never realized.... I know he loves me, but I never realized *how much!* I should have come to him before...with other matters I’ve tried to fix *myself.*”

Interrupting her, “Esther,...Esther don’t you hear me?! I *want* to help you! Tell me what I can do! I’ll give up half my kingdom-to do it!...*Just tell me!!!*”

“And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.” Esther 5:4

Moments later; Ahasuerus speaks again, “Is that it? ...Is *that* all you wanted?-Me and Haman to come to eat and drink with you....” Under his breath, ““Sure’s silly to me....” Louder now, “...But we *CAN do!* Guard, ‘...Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said.’”

Later, at the banquet of wine...

Figuring there was *more* to the request than food and drink, Ahasuerus repeats his offer, ““What is thy petition...’ Esther, ‘...and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to half [a fitting offer; since she *is* his “better *half*”!] the kingdom it shall be performed.’”

Since Ahasuerus *repeats* his offer, Esther answers with even more confidence, ““...Let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I have prepared for them...’, and I will tell you my request *tomorrow.*”

Suddenly the curtain falls-suspending the “...second...” (Esther 7:2) banquet scene for another chapter and a half. Applause is heard. And the intermission begins.

⁴ Numbers 24:17. Not only is the “Star” the Lord Jesus, so is the “Sceptre”!