

### 3. God can free us from enslavement to the world's ways

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ...to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or blemish but holy and blameless."  
Ephesians 5:25,27

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.  
....<sup>18</sup> No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. John 10:11,18

### 3 Things To Free Us From The World's Pull.

#### 1. I get a **"real definition of beauty."**

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
Isaiah 53:2

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed ...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5,6

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, Isaiah 53:10

#### 2. I get a **"new experience of my beauty to him."**

#### 3. I become **"internally beautiful."**

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.  
1 John 3:2



### **Don't Confuse Silence With Inaction Esther Chapter 2 Verses 5-10, &17,18, & 20-23**

<sup>5</sup> Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai ... <sup>6</sup> who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon...<sup>7</sup> Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up (Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died) This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and.<sup>8</sup> When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought ...Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. <sup>9</sup> The girl pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven maids selected from the king's palace and moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem.<sup>10</sup> Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

<sup>17</sup> Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.<sup>18</sup> And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials.

...<sup>20</sup> Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, ...<sup>21</sup> During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.<sup>22</sup> But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.<sup>23</sup> And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were hanged on a gallows. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

## 1. God is always at work in spite of appearances.

<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, ...  
commanded... <sup>11</sup> to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order  
to display her beauty to the people and nobles, Esther 1:10,11

This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was  
beautiful. Esther 2:7

<sup>22</sup> But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn  
reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. Esther 2:22

That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the  
record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. <sup>2</sup> It was found recorded there  
that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who  
guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. <sup>3</sup> "What honor  
and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been  
done for him," his attendants answered. Esther 6:1-3

When you see one of the 10 plagues, you know that's God, but  
when King Xerxes gets drunk and starts bragging, you don't say,  
"Wow! *There's God at work!*"

**The book of Esther is trying to tell you,** just because,  
you can't see something doesn't mean God isn't at work.

## 2. The world is obsessed with appearances.

<sup>4</sup> For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor  
and glory of his majesty. Esther 1:4

When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were  
brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. ... <sup>12</sup> Before a young  
woman's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of  
beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six  
with perfumes and cosmetics. Esther 2:8,12

Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of  
the harem. <sup>9</sup> She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with  
her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants  
selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best  
place in the harem. <sup>10</sup> Esther had not revealed her nationality and family  
background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Esther 2:8-10

### **There is an encouragement and a challenge in Esther's Compliance.**

The encouragement is ... *Are we guilty?* Are we selling our souls  
for one night with the King, all the while saying we believe in the  
Christian ideals? Of course we are, to some degree or another,  
we are all guilty.

Esther got off to a horrible start, but God stays with her and grows  
her into something great. That's the encouraging part of the story.

**Here's why that's so important.** No matter how badly you  
screwed up the beginning of your life and no matter what horrible  
moves you've made, and I can and will assure you, you cannot  
write yourself out of God's final script.

**But here's the challenge.** There are no other options.  
If you do think there is an alternative approach to life in Christ,  
where God blesses and saves those who live moral lives?

### **That's not the message of the Bible.**

The message of the Scriptures is that God persistently and  
continuously gives his grace to people who don't ask for it,  
don't deserve it, and don't even fully appreciate it after they get it.  
Which means in spite of the fact *we are polluted* by the world,  
God hasn't given up on us.

### **That's the message of the Bible.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward  
appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7