

# **AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.**

## **Intergenerational Women's Ministry**

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

26 March 2022

This month provides an overview of how her

**S**piritual Gifts

**P**ersonality (Presence/Perspective)

**E**xperiences (Positions/Protection)

**C**ares/Passions

**I**nterest

**A**bilities

**L**ife Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**

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*"I did what my conscience told me to do, and you can't fail if you do that." Anita Hill*



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### **All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Queen Vashti**

**Pages 165-167**

## **AWARENESS**

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*On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—<sup>11</sup> to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. <sup>12</sup> But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.*

Esther 1:10-12 (NIV)

### **Name Meaning**

- Beautiful woman!
- King Ahasuerus thought so much of his wife's physical charms that at a drinking debauchery he wanted to exhibit her beauty for she "was fair to look upon."

### **Family Connection**

- Persian, daughter of the King of Lydia, a Persian princess.
- She makes a brief appearance in the Bible as a noble wife who is disgraced and divorced by her unworthy, wine-soaked husband.
- Queen Vashti was driven out because she refused to display herself before the lustful eyes of a drunken court.
- Rather than cater to the vanity and sensuality of drunkards, she courageously sacrificed a kingdom.
- Rather than lower the white banner of womanly modesty, Vashti accepted disgrace and dismissal.
- There is no mention if she had children.

### **The Demand**

- Read Esther 1:1-12 (What do you note about this set up?)
- This king **Ahasuerus** is well known to history, though more commonly under the name *Xerxes*. He inherited the vast Persian Empire from his father, Darius I.
- When the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded that Vashti, his royal consort appear before the guest.
- For weeks he had displayed the magnificent wealth and power of his kingdom. Now for the climax! Let all the half-drunken guests see his most lovely possession, Queen Vashti.
- Had the king been sober he would not have considered a breach of custom knowing that Eastern women lived in seclusion and such a request was a gross insult.
- One writer says kings usually send away his queen and calls in the wives of inferior rank – his concubines.

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- What the king demanded was a surrender of womanly honor and Vashti was unwilling to comply.

### **The Disobedience**

- The command of the king, her husband, was revolting to her sense of propriety.
- She knew the consequences of her refusal to appear and stood strong in her womanly self-respect.
- What the king sought would have infringed upon her noble, feminine modesty.
- Josephus believes Persian law prohibited wives from being viewed by strangers so Vashti may have refused out of respect for this custom that the king was violating.
- Persian wives could be present at the banquets but left before the drinking began.

### **The Deposition**

- Vashti's disobedience excited the king to madness and a decree was issued that Vashti come no more before him.
- The degradation also meant divorce not only from her husband but also from her lifestyle.
- Vashti chose deposition rather than dishonor; her conscience and personal dignity occupied a higher supremacy.
- Why were the princes so nervous, feeling threatened?
- "A private act of domestic insurrection gets widely publicized by an official edit and the intractable realm of male-female relations become a matter for yet another state regulation: every man should be master in his own house."<sup>1</sup> (See Esther 1:18-22)
- As a Persian law once made could never be revoked, some believe when the king was sober likely regretted his impulsive anger but could not reinstate Vashti, thus Esther was chosen to succeed her as queen.

### **Food For Thought**

- Once Queen Vashti made up her mind, she was ready to deal with the consequences. She teaches us about the role of integrity and courage; integrity takes courage.
- Vashti put on a crown which was beyond the power of the king to give or take away, namely the crown of womanhood.
- The divine favor of God rests upon those who have courage, integrity and honor their lives.
- Book of Esther is evident in God's divine providence – Romans 8:28.
- Can a man demand or coerce respect from his wife? If it isn't freely given, then is it worth anything?

**April 23, 2022 – Pilate's Wife – Pages 226-227**

**Book of Matthew 27:19**

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<sup>1</sup> The IPV Women's Bible Commentary, page 266

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## **SKILL**

### **Step Eighteen: Modeling**

*What do these words and definitions mean to you? Must have? Can do without?*

- Strength – the quality or state of being strong; capacity for exertion or endurance.
- Strong – not mild or weak.
- Wisdom – insight; good sense; ability to discern inner qualities and relationships.
- Power – ability to act/produce an effect; possession of control/authority/influence over others.

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*How do you apply the above terms to help with the following decision making process?*

- **Step 1)** Identify the decision
- **Step 2)** Gather the necessary and relevant information
- **Step 3)** Identify the alternatives
- **Step 4)** Weigh the evidence
- **Step 5)** Choose among the alternatives
- **Step 6)** Take action
- **Step 7)** Review your decision & its consequences

*What does the following statement say to you? What kind of decision is this?*

“Sometimes we have to step out there and be an example so that those who follow will know what can be done. Strength and wisdom are qualities that each of us needs to rely on God for and encourage in our sisters.”<sup>2</sup>

*Could Queen Vashti be a role model and if so, in what way? Did she make a good decision?*

*Do you have a role model? What are her qualities that speak to you?*

*Are you a role model? What qualities do you have that speak to others, especially younger women?*

*What modeling tactics did we learn, pick up, from watching the Senate hearings this week on the confirmation of The Honorable Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the US Supreme Court?*

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<sup>2</sup> Women of the Bible for Women of Color, Queen Vashti A Woman of Strength, pages 126-127

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## **Happy Blessed Women's History Month!**

# **KNOWLEDGE**

Dear (insert your name) \_\_\_\_\_;

Today I engaged in a conversation on how God can use me in my womanhood as an Ambassador of Christ and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most

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Blessings Overflow,

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