Bible Study 96

Wednesday, September 27

“The Women of the Bible.” (Esther continued……)

As we read the story of Esther, we must remember one important fact. Esther is a faithful and virtuous woman. Because of this the spirit of God works in and through her. We have seen this before in the Story of Ruth and again with Hannah. Both were women of good character, and we could say ‘holy’.

There is something else to note here. That is the number of times that scripture wishes to record God’s plan for his people. It nearly always begins with a woman. First, we have Eve and then at the beginning of the Abraham story there is Sarah.

It is Rebekah who saves the line of succession when she journeys from her father’s land to find and become a wife to Isaac. In these stories the women play an important role. While at times Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and even Moses seem confused by God’s revelation, it is different with the women. From the start they are 1) accepting, and 2) always obey. As if God’s word and revelation is working in and through them.

So when we come to Esther we find that the people are in great peril because of Haman’s oppression. There are several times in the course of the Babylonian exile where the Chosen People need a hero. We read of Daniel being placed in the Lions’ Den and the Three young men who survive the fiery furnace. But Esther is a woman, a gentle woman and whose only weapons are her beauty and her grace.

This had me pondering whether the virtues of God, are not more akin to the virtues of women than men. While the men of the Bible constantly get things wrong; and resort to war and violence to solve their problems and often their own mistakes, the women usually take a different course. First, they go the way of Wisdom, peace and harmony. Rather than being ‘destroyers’ they tend to be responsible for ‘new birth’, grown and the future of the nation.

Could it be that men are only an ‘accident of Evolution’ and if women had been the more dominant gender, God’s revelation would have received a much better reception. Look around, it is the continual bombardment of the Scribes, Pharisees and Sanhedrin that attempts to destroy the ministry of Jesus. Listen to what Jesus exhorts his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount! Is that not a female approach to love one another in a spirit of forgiveness?

There are exception such as the story of ‘Jezebel’, but on the whole the Women of the

Bible tread the path we see in the NT.

# Read the rest of Esther