

Event: Titus 2

Topic: The Imagery of Our Foremothers Pt. 1

Hostess: Mama Naamah

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Today, we will be reading about our foremothers Susanna, Judith and Abigail. They all are strong examples of how a virtuous Israelite woman should carry themselves. Enjoy!

The Story of Susanna

The History of Susanna 1:1-4 (Apocrypha) - There dwelt a man in Babylon, called Joacim: vs 2 And he took a wife, whose name was Susanna, the daughter of Chelcias, a very fair woman, and one that feared the Lord. vs 3 Her parents also were righteous, and taught their daughter according to the law of Moses. vs 4 Now Joacim was a great rich man, and had a fair garden joining unto his house: and to him resorted the Jews; because he was more honourable than all others.



- Susanna's parents taught her the laws from youth all the way up
- They were making sure that she knew what to do
- The Most High ordained parents to teach their children the law

The History of Susanna 1:17-20 (Apocrypha) - Then she said to her maids, Bring me oil and washing balls, and shut the garden doors, that I may wash me. **vs 18** And they did as she bade them, and shut the garden doors, and went out themselves at privy doors to fetch the things that she had commanded them: but they saw not the elders, because they were hid. **vs 19** Now when the maids were gone forth, the two elders rose up, and ran unto her, saying, **vs 20** Behold, the garden doors are shut, that no man can see us, and we are in love with thee; therefore consent unto us, and lie with us.

- The elders decided to sneak and watch Susanna take a bath
- They were lusting at her beauty.
- The two elders were breaking the Commandment "Thou shalt not covet after thou neighbor's wife."

Something else we can take away...

- Soaking using washing balls along with soap
- We must teach our children taking a bath was not a rush job but an important one.

The History of Susanna 1:21 (Apocrypha) If thou wilt not, we will bear witness against thee, that a young man was with thee: and therefore thou didst send away thy maids from thee.

- Susanna at this point is praying to The Most High because the two elders are willing to lie and bring her before the whole city

The History of Susanna 1:22 (Apocrypha) Then Susanna sighed, and said, I am straitened on every side: for if I do this thing, it is death unto me: and if I do it not I cannot escape your hands.

- She made a decision, deciding not to lay with them, though they threatened her with this lie
- She stood her ground

The History of Susanna 1:23 (Apocrypha) It is better for me to fall into your hands, and not do it, than to sin in the sight of the Lord.

- I would rather go against you than to have gone against The Most High and do this sin
- When things get bad, we must always remember to put our full trust in the Lord



The History of Susanna 1:35-37 (Apocrypha) - And she weeping looked up toward heaven: for her heart trusted in the Lord. **vs 36** And the elders said, As we walked in the garden alone, this woman came in with two maids, and shut the garden doors, and sent the maids away.

vs 37 Then a young man, who there was hid, came unto her, and lay with her.

- They said what they were going to do and lied on her.

The History of Susanna 1:41 (Apocrypha) Then the assembly believed them as those that were the elders and judges of the people: so they condemned her to death.

- Look how far they are going, knowing if this woman was caught in the mist of adultery that she will be put to death

The History of Susanna 1:42-43 (Apocrypha)- Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said, O everlasting God, that knowest the secrets, and knowest all things before they be: **vs 43** Thou knowest that they have borne false witness against me, and, behold, I must die; whereas I never did such things as these men have maliciously invented against me.

- While she is being held in front of counsel she prayed on the spot
- She trusted the Lord
- We as sisters in Christ must learn to go to the Heavenly Father in affliction
- We must seek and ask the Lord to help us

The History of Susanna 1:44 (Apocrypha) And the Lord heard her voice.

- The Most High heard her prayer

The History of Susanna 1:45 (Apocrypha) Therefore when she was led to be put to death, the Lord raised up the holy spirit of a young youth whose name was Daniel:

- The Most High raised up a spirit to assist and defend Susanna

The History of Susanna 1:47-50 (Apocrypha) - Then all the people turned them toward him, and said, What mean these words that thou hast spoken? **vs 48** So he standing in the midst of them said, Are ye such fools, ye sons of Israel, that without examination or knowledge of the truth ye have condemned a daughter of Israel? **vs 49** Return again to the place of judgment: for they have borne false witness against her. **vs 50** Wherefore all the people turned again in haste, and the elders said unto him, Come, sit down among us, and shew it us, seeing God hath given thee the honour of an elder.



- Daniel questioned how do we condemn her to death without diligently asking both men what truly happened?

Susanna 1:51- (Apocrypha) Then said Daniel unto them, Put these two aside one far from another, and I will examine them.

- They separated them and questioned them both
- They gave both different answers of how the story went
- Daniel had the spirit of discernment; this is when he could tell that someone is lying based on his line of questioning

Susanna 1:59 (Apocrypha) Then said Daniel unto him, Well; thou hast also lied against thine own head: for the angel of God waiteth with the sword to cut thee in two, that he may destroy you.

- They were found to be lying.

Susanna 1:60 (Apocrypha) With that all the assembly cried out with a loud voice, and praised God, who saveth them that trust in him.

- The assembly praised the Lord when they found out the whole truth
- In the story, Susanna put her trust in The Most High, and He saved her from death

The Story of Judith

Judith 8:1-2 (Apocrypha)- Now at that time Judith heard thereof, which was the daughter of Merari, the son of Ox, the son of Joseph, the son of Ozel, the son of Elcia, the son of Ananias, the son of Gedeon, the son of Raphaim, the son of Acitho, the son of Eliu, the son of Eliab, the son of Nathanael, the son of Samael, the son of Salasadal, the son of Israel. **vs 2** And Manasses was her husband, of her tribe and kindred, who died in the barley harvest.

- Judith husband died while she was married to him
- She is a great example for how to carry yourself as a widow, in this truth
- She continued to keep the Commandments of the Lord
- To stay strong and to keep going

Judith 8:4-6 (Apocrypha) So Judith was a widow in her house three years and four months.

vs 5 And she made her a tent upon the top of her house, and put on sackcloth upon her loins and ware her widow's apparel. **vs 6** And she fasted all the days of her widowhood, save the eves of the sabbaths, and the sabbaths, and the eves of the new moons, and the new moons and the feasts and solemn days of the house of Israel.



- She did not wear what she used to wear when her husband was alive
- When her husband died she wore widow's clothes
- She fasted often

Judith 8:7-8 (Apocrypha) She was also of a goodly countenance, and very beautiful to behold: and her husband Manasses had left her gold, and silver, and menservants and maidservants, and cattle, and lands; and she remained upon them. **vs 8** And there was none that gave her an ill word; as she feared God greatly.

- When her husband died, he left her lots of money and cattle amongst many things.
- She was well-off but continued keeping the commandments.

Judith 10:1-2 (Apocrypha) Now after that she had ceased to cry unto the God of Israel, and had made an end of all these words. **vs 2** She rose where she had fallen down, and called her maid, and went down into the house in the which she abode in the sabbath days, and in her feast days

- She prayed to The Most High for Israel, for the enemy, got their hands into the water system, so that Israel would not have access
- As long as we were within our gates, they could not get to us
- They thought in order to force us out, they could get into our water system
- Judith had the courage to go to enemy in person to talk to the head of the army (Holofernes)

Judith 10:3 (Apocrypha) And pulled off the sackcloth which she had on, and put off the garments of her widowhood, and washed her body all over with water, and anointed herself with precious ointment, and braided the hair of her head, and put on a tire upon it, and put on her garments of gladness, wherewith she was clad during the life of Manasses her husband.

It said, she pulled these things out...

- This is what she used to wear for her husband
 - She did not wear this just for any man, it is just that this situation came up
 - Once her husband died, she stopped dressing like this
 - The clothes, jewelry, and apparel was all for her husband
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- This shows us our foremothers did not just show up to a man
 - They did their hair and marinated in precious oils
 - Picked out an outfit
 - They did these things in righteousness
 - As we turn our minds back to our foremothers, we have to start putting on the spirit of our foremothers



Things we can take away...

- A lot of sisters feel like they do not want to do all that but our foremothers did this to make their husband's happy
- This shows us we need care about what our husband think, and dress the way they like
- We must teach our daughters

There is a new generation of women that are not taking care of themselves...

- Walking out the house with hair bonnets and pajamas, we must change
- Care about how you present yourself

Judith 10:4 (Apocrypha) And she took sandals upon her feet, and put about her bracelets, and her chains, and her rings, and her earrings, and all her ornaments, and decked herself bravely, to allure the eyes of all men that should see her.

- Judith decked herself
- There is a way that you can allure the eyes of your husband or all of the men and she did it to save her people
- Holofernes is so excited to meet her for he was in awe over how beautiful she was

Judith 12:10 (Apocrypha) And in the fourth day Holofernes made a feast to his own servants only, and called none of the officers to the banquet.

- Holofernes called for a banquet
- This man is the reason why the water is shut off, so she is risking her life for her nation

Was she only thinking about herself?

- You must be selfless and have a mindset towards the nation
- This goes for in a marriage as well, it is not all about you

Judith 12:14 (Apocrypha) Then said Judith unto him, Who am I now, that I should gainsay my lord? surely whatsoever pleaseth him I will do speedily, and it shall be my joy unto the day of my death.

- Gainsay: meaning against
- In other words "Who am I to come against what you desire"
- Anything that he wants done I will do it in that with all speed
- She said, I will take joy in doing whatever you like until the day of my death
 - This should be the mindset of a wife
- She is using it to be deceitful, but she is wise enough to know how to speak to win him over



- You know a man would feel like he could conquer the world with a woman like that

Judith 12:15-20 (Apocrypha) So she arose, and decked herself with her apparel and all her woman's attire, and her maid went and laid soft skins on the ground for her over against Holofernes, which she had received of Bagoas for her daily use, that she might sit and eat upon them. **vs 16** Now when Judith came in and sat down, Holofernes his heart was ravished with her, and his mind was moved, and he desired greatly her company; for he waited a time to deceive her, from the day that he had seen her. **vs 17** Then said Holofernes unto her, Drink now, and be merry with us. **vs 18** So Judith said, I will drink now, my lord, because my life is magnified in me this day more than all the days since I was born. **vs 19** Then she took and ate and drank before him what her maid had prepared. **vs 20** And Holofernes took great delight in her, and drank more wine than he had drunk at any time in one day since he was born.

- She knew what to say to make a man calm down and feel good
- She knew how to treat a man
- She is speaking to him with great reverence and great honor
- He was so ravished by her company that he got drunk

The Story of Abigail

1 Samuel 25:2-3 (KJV) - And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. **vs 3** Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

- Nabal and Abigail were well off
- Nabal was a foolish man

1 Samuel 25:4-5 (KJV) - And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. **vs 5** And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:

- David sent 10 young men to greet Nabal

1 Samuel 25:7 (KJV) And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

- David's men kept watch over the sheep when they did not have to



- David sent messengers to ask Nabal, whom sheep they watched over, and asked if Nabal could please send some food
 - The messengers relayed the message to Nabal and Nabal railed on them

1 Samuel 25:9-11 (KJV) - And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased. **vs 10** And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. **vs 11** Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be?

- David asked for a favor not only does he get a no he gets disrespected

1 Samuel 25:12-13 (KJV) - So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings. **vs 13** And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

- David thought he was keeping the Nabal's sheep for good, it so happens that he kept them well-kept for nothing
- David and his men girded their swords

1 Samuel 25:14 (KJV) But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

- Abigail's servant, who was privy to the matter, let Abigail know what her husband just did

1 Samuel 25:19 (KJV) And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal.

- Abigail made haste to get that food ready
- A virtuous woman is a tower against death to her husband
 - To block death from coming
- She was going to try her best to get these things prepared and to try to turn the situation around
- She did not go railing for railing

1 Samuel 25:23 (KJV) And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,



- Abigail comes to David and bows before him to speak to show reference and honor

1 Samuel 25:24 (KJV) And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

- She came on her husband's behalf because she knew how angry David was

1 Samuel 25:25 (KJV) Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

- Any man that is against you is a fool

1 Samuel 25:30 (KJV) And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;

Abigail spoke with kind words, exhorting him...

- Abigail is reminding him, Saul anointed him to be the next king
- Know, that The Most High is with you
- The Most High has plans for you
- There is a seat already ready for you

1 Samuel 25:33-34 (KJV) - And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. **vs 34** For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

- David is thanking Abigail for coming to speak with him
- This shows us... A soft answer surely turned away his wrath

1 Samuel 25:36-39 (KJV) - And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. **vs 37** But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. **vs 38** And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died. **vs 39** And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.



- Nabal did not even know or have a clue what his wife did to save the situation
- Abigail told him in the morning all that happened
- At the end David was happy that The Most High avenged Nabal for what he did

We have to ask what did king David see in her at that moment that he decided to send for her and make her his wife?

I hope everyone enjoyed the class - stay tuned for Part 2!

Shalom MHNCBUA