Becoming Blameless like Susanna

Interview 1

Your Best Guess is to Offend Less...

In this walk, I believe I have yet to meet the perfect sister as blameless as our foremother Susanna. As we strive each day to self-examine and die daily, I usually wonder what steps are we taking to combat our former selves. If you are honest with yourself, I'm sure you can agree that this is an experience we all can relate to. Since the beginning of my walk until now, I have been provided with such great counsel. I have also been given sisterly advice from those far and near, to help guide me and improve my steps within my walk. Some of the best advice given to me is to understand the importance of remaining blameless by fasting and praying, accepting correction without emotional resistance, demonstrating compassion and love to enable you to cultivate discipline and practice spiritual integrity.

Fasting and praying in your walk displays true discipline in achieving blamelessness. In the past, I knew my facial expressions could display more or less than what I truly cared to say. Once I noticed that this was something I had to overcome, I quickly started to watch classes on what it meant to rule my spirit. Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 13:25 explains how your facial expressions can show the way you truly feel. This is why it is important to always fast and pray to be able to overcome your inner thoughts.

As the scriptures state in Matthew chapter 17, 21 **"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."** We must self-examine and purge out our carnal ways. 2 Esdras 16:67 "**Behold, God himself is the judge, fear him: leave off from your sins, and forget your iniquities, to meddle no more with them forever: so shall God lead you forth, and deliver you from all trouble."** This scripture signifies how we must put off the former things (sin).

Proverbs 15:10 **"Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die"**. Correction is meant to reform your thinking, not to make you feel devalued. We all have heard the saying, "the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result." This saying may be applied to your walk if you are striving to be blameless. It is going to cost you your former self and thoughts, but the end result is spiritual growth and perfection.

I know we are all striving to be as our foremothers who remained blameless even when faced with trials. For example, Abigail gracefully handled the reproach of her husband Nabal; and Susanna exquisitely relied on her faith in the Lord when falsely accused of adultery. Both scenarios remind me of two scriptures: **Philippians 4:8** and **1 Corinthians 15:31**. I pray we all continue to die daily and strive for the best version of ourselves as we get closer to the kingdom.

Interviewee: Sis Rayah IUIC Atlanta

Interview 2

What's one trial that you don't mind sharing and how did/do you remain blameless?

When trials come my way, I am thankful because it reassures me that The Most High is dealing with me. I prefer going through trials, rather than my life being filled with constant joy and perfection. **Hebrews 12:7-8 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**

During one of my most recent trials, everything that I didn't imagine could possibly go wrong, went wrong. I had multiple trials going on at one time. At that time, I embarked on a new health journey. So, I went to the store and bought a lot of fruits and vegetables to begin juicing only to discover that my juicer had broken and my juicing was going to have to be put off. My car payment was taken out of my bank account twice, which resulted in my account being in the negatives, and not to mention food was running low in my house. My bank wouldn't give me back the money without first opening a claim which would take up to 10 days to process. On top of that I couldn't congregate on the Sabbath because my children had gotten sick from school. These are just a few trials to name.

You will be known by your actions. Having two young prophets I want to make sure I am always striving to remain blameless. Sometimes in life, situations happen that are out of your control and that's okay. The way you act when things go wrong shows the type of person you are. I could have very well gotten out of the spirit, but I know that the scriptures state ***in your patience possess ye your souls.*** During those trials, all I could do was sit there and be patient because nothing was in my control. God is in control of everything, and my situation would remain until God saw fit for it to end. Also, I had to show my children through my actions that my faith in The Most High will allow me to see the situation through and to not worry because worry is a sign of unbelief. *It is important to be mindful of your actions because you can cause someone to change their ways, or to keep walking in sin.*

What advice would you give a sister on being blameless in this walk?

In this truth, it is so important that we remain blameless in our walk. *Our actions should always align with the Bible, no matter what trials we are dealing with.* The Most High gives you specific trials because he knows that you can handle them and has given you a way to escape. We have so many examples in the Bible that display different trials such as being falsely accused, being thrown in a lion's den, hated by your own family, etc. Yet our forefathers and foremothers found a way to escape. Christ was persecuted, mocked, spit on and hung on a cross to die. Even during his trials, he deliberately chose not to sin so that his actions aligned with the Bible. Your trials are nothing compared to the trials of those who came before you. Just remember to be thankful that The Most High is dealing with you and has considered you to be tried. **Will you pass the test and remain blameless when your next trial comes?**

Interviewee: Sis Zaynah

Interview 3

What advice would you give a sister on being blameless in this walk?

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

My biggest advice would be to pray to The Most High, asking for wisdom and guidance in your walk; along with continual prayer, fasting, and seeking the scriptures daily so that you don't lean on your own understanding. My lord has also provided scriptural guidance on certain matters which has enlightened me on how to better carry myself. I would not want to embarrass him or myself from lack of self-examination and correction. If you don't have a lord, then speak to your senior sister for guidance. Also, pray to the Lord to bring sisters to you that will correct you and hold you accountable. In conclusion, I would like to express that this walk is about how you apply the word of God. I truly love doing the work of the Lord. I aim to strive to be a good servant unto the Lord.

Interviewee: Sis Haniyah, House of Officer Jabez

Interview 4

What's one trial that you don't mind sharing and how did/do you remain blameless?

A recent trial of mine would be my postpartum experience because my patience was being tested. I went from getting great sleep, to none. From a clean house, to watching our clothes pile up. My son wasn't latching on properly so he would cry at night, resulting in me being extremely exhausted. All these things were heavy on my mind, very stressful, and emotional. But what helped me out in remaining blameless was getting counsel, meditating on the scriptures and prayer. I had spoken to sisters that had experienced the same things, and they helped calm me down and told me how to handle the different scenarios that may arise during postpartum. I also reached out to sisters to come over and help keep my lord's home in tip-top shape so he can feel at peace in his own home. Most importantly I kept this scripture in mind:

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

I kept telling myself, "I can do this! There were plenty of women before me that overcame; surely, I can also. I am an Israelite woman. If anybody can do this, I can." I just kept encouraging myself with the scriptures and prayer which helped me a lot. Applying all these things calmed my spirit and kept me blameless.

What advice would you give a sister on being blameless in this walk?

Advice that I would tell a sister in this truth to remain blameless is that whatever situation you get in, search in the scriptures for the solution. Try your best to remain calm. Remember the Lord got you. Trust in him and read **Sirach chapter 2**.

Interviewee: Sis Echet Chayil, House of Officer Shemuel

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