

## ***“The Miracle Table Rediscovering the Power of Communion”***

Murray, Andrew. (2018). Chapter 9 *The Table - Where I Fight My Battles*. (pp. 141–158). *essay, Generation Builders*. Excerpt used with permission, Condensed and abbreviated from pages 141-158, Bible references are NIV unless otherwise noted

“The book of Esther is not a book you would normally associate with the Lord’s supper. Hidden within this story is one of the great secrets of the power of Communion. Once we discover this I believe we will never approach the Communion Table in the same way again.”

“The story of Esther is set in the kingdom of Persia where the Jewish people were in exile. Mighty Xerxes was the king of the Persian empire. The culture of that time would have allowed Xerxes to have a harem of women, and from the harem, he would choose one to be his royal bride. The royal bride at the start of the book is Queen Vashti. Due to her disobedience, Vashti was deposed as queen and a search for a new royal bride is underway. The young girl Esther or Hadassah (Hebrew name) is chosen and she becomes the new favorite of the king.”

“Haman, a wicked man, a descendant of the Amalekites (historical enemies of the Jews) convinced the king to make a law to kill all the Jews on a certain day. The Jewish people felt powerless to defend themselves. Their only hope was for someone to ask the king for mercy.”

“Queen Esther’s cousin, Mordecai told her of the situation and begs her to speak to the king. Esther knows that to approach the king without being summoned could result in her death. She is reluctant; Mordecai persuades her “Who knows that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)

“Esther asked the Jews to pray and fast for her for three days so that she would find favor with the king. “When the king saw Esther standing in the court, he was pleased and held out his gold scepter. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given to you.” He asks this twice in the story.” (Esther 5:2-3 & vs6)

“As believers we have been given access, not into the presence of an earthly king or president, but into the presence of the King of Kings and the Lord or Lords. We have been called into the presence of the Creator of the heavens and the earth, The One with all power all authority. He is the Name above all names and the One for whom nothing is impossible. As the Church, we come into His presence as His royal bride. We have found favor in His sight, He has extended the royal scepter. We can come boldly before His throne (Hebrews 4:16) and He says “ask of Me”. The New Testament is full of wonderful promises such as “ask and it will be given to you” (Matt 7:7)

“So what are you asking for today? You are in the presence of the One who is able to give anything and He gives you permission to ask for anything- we have so many needs and wants. What are you going to ask for?”

“Esther’s response is remarkable. Esther replied, ‘My petition is this: If the king regards me with favor, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them.’ (Esther 5:7-8) Esther knew something that we as the Bride of Christ also have to discover. Discovering this will change our prayer life and the way we view spiritual warfare. Esther knew that if she could satisfy the heart of the king by dining with him, (because he desired communion) everything else would be taken care of.”

“Chapter 1 of the book of Esther describes the king’s banquet. It is one of majesty, splendor, and abundance. How much more glorious is the Banqueting Table of our King? The Table of King Jesus is full of glory and majesty. It contains all that we need...in abundance. Joy is on the menu. Healing is on the menu. Provision is on the menu. Forgiveness is on the menu. Life itself is on the menu. You can even taste the very presence of the King Himself. What a glorious feast that has been prepared for us by our King!”

“Queen Vashti was having her own banquet and refused to leave when asked to join the king at his banquet. The king will always give us a choice: do you want to eat at your own table or at King Jesus’ table? Our table is good but nothing compares to communing with King Jesus. Jesus is calling us to - communion. “Sit with Me. Dine with Me. Fellowship with Me.” “Eat of Me, Drink of Me, Enjoy Me.”

(Psalm 34:8 NKJV)

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord *is* good; (experience with Him)  
Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!”

“Once we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good nothing else will satisfy. You can never go back to dead religion, you can never go back to ceremony and routine- the only thing that will satisfy is the presence of the King. Once you have dined with the King, communed and fellowshiped with Him, once you have tasted His presence and drink from His life giving stream, only one thing will satisfy.”

“Esther was aware of Vashti’s choice and decided to make a better one. Esther knew that the desire of the king was to have communion with his bride. She knew this would satisfy his heart. Her priority was spending time in his presence. In satisfying his heart, every need she had and that the Jewish people had would be met automatically. “

“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord.” (Psalm 27:4)

“But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:42-NKJV)

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matt 6:33)

“When Queen Esther invites the king to dinner she also invited Haman her enemy. Esther knew that the only way to defeat Haman was to bring him to the table. This revelation truly shows us the power of communion. ‘Surely He has prepared a table for us in the presence of our enemies.’ (Psalm 23:5) Whatever your enemy is- bring it to the table. For some of us sin is destroying us. For some it’s addiction, for some it is fear, for some it is guilt and shame, or a lack of confidence. Some have an enemy of cancer, an abusive relationship or a rebellious child. We all have enemies in our lives. Bring all those things to His Table and allow Him to deal with them. The Table is where we fight our battles, the victory is won, and the enemy is defeated. It was here, again as they sat at the table that the king turned and said for the third time to Queen Esther: “Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given to you. What is your request? (Esther 7:2) Only now does she know that she can speak and everything will change. She tells the king of the plot of Haman to kill her people, the Jews. The Bible tells us that at these words “the king got up in a rage” vs7 When we do warfare at the Table something powerful happens - God will arise on our behalf and when God arises our enemies are scattered. (Psalm 68:1)”

“Haman tried to plead for his life. Satan’s greatest weapon is also his words. Whether it be words of fear, accusation or lies. He will try to speak words of poison to God’s people. As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. (vs8) Haman’s face was covered and he was no longer allowed to speak. The powerful truth is that satan is silenced at The Table. He has nothing to say when confronted with the Bread of His presence and the Blood of the Lamb.”

“The king proclaimed another decree and this second decree overruled the first. The Jews will live and Haman will die. According to Jesus, Communion is an act of proclamation. “You proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” (1Corinthians 11:26) We are proclaiming that another decree has been made. Satan may pronounce death over us, but our King Jesus made another decree, “death is defeated” Satan may have pronounced sickness over us, but our King Jesus makes another decree, “by My stripes you are healed.” God does not ignore our sins but He makes another decree, “My blood cleanses, My blood forgives, My blood washes away, My blood makes you clean, My blood makes you righteous, My blood makes you worthy. This is the power of the New Covenant!”

“At the table King Xerxes gives the Jews the right to take up arms against their enemies. (Esther 8:11) He empowered them to defeat their enemies and see the victory of God, a victory that is still remembered today in the feast of Purim. When we have communion with Jesus, many of our enemies are defeated immediately and we see sudden breakthroughs, miracles and answers to prayers. But then there are other enemies that seem to hang around. We leave the Communion Table and it seems like nothing has happened. But there are two ways in which God gives us the victory. He either deals with the enemy directly, or He empowers us to overcome. At the Lord’s Table, He anoints our heads with oil (Psalm 23:5) which speaks of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As we commune with the King, we are empowered by the Spirit of God and we leave with an authority and an ability to defeat and overcome all the powers of hell. “I have given you authority...to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.” (Luke 10:19) It may seem like your situation is hopeless. In a moment God can turn the situation around for His glory. Bring your enemy to the table and leave him there. He is defeated at the table.”

