Preparation for Godly Marriage Part 13 Men and Women Who Fear God

"30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. 31 Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." (Proverbs 31:30-31)

It is so important requirement for Godly marriage is that men and women fear God. Because the purpose of marriage is to raise up children who fear God. But if the man or the woman do not fear God then neither their children would fear God.

The Scriptures encourages us with the values of fearing God and shunning evil.

1- The fear of God imparts knowledge and wisdom. "7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7) "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10) "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility." (Proverbs 15:33)

2- The fear of God is to depart from evil. "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." (Proverbs 3:7) "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." (Proverbs 8:13) "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." (Proverbs 16:6)

3- The fear of the Lord prolongs life. "The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened." (Proverbs 10:27)

4- The fear of God brings reward. "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." (Proverbs 13:13)

5- The fear of the Lord is refuge and confidence. "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." (Proverbs 14:26)

6- The fear of Lord is provision and satisfaction. "The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." (Proverbs 19:23) "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life." (Proverbs 22:4) "Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith." (Proverbs 15:16)

We spoke previously about the two Hebrews midwives. In this message we will tackle other few examples of men and women who feared God and their God's fearing attitude had aided to build their families, protect God's church and work with God to promote His Kingdom:

1- Noah feared God and built the ark to save His family: "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith." (Hebrews 11:7 NIV) "7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." (Hebrews 11:7 KJV)

2- Rahab who hid and protected the spies that Joshua sent: "2 The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." 3 So the king of

Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land." 4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." 6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut." (Joshua 2:2-7) Rahab Ultimately God rewarded her and gave her family of her own and made her marry an Israelites, "5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse," (Matthew 1:5) You can see clearly how Rahab feared God and that fear of God generated in her faith and action to protect the spies, "24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?" (James 2:24-25)

3- Jael the wife of Heber who killed Sisera the commander of the army of king Jabin the king of Canaan: "15 At Barak's advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot. 16 Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left. 17 Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite. 18 Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come, my lord, come right in. Don't be afraid." So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket. 19 "I'm thirsty," he said. "Please give me some water." She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up. 20 "Stand in the doorway of the tent," he told her. "If someone comes by and asks you, 'Is anyone in there?' say 'No.' " 21 But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died. 22 Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. "Come," she said, "I will show you the man you're looking for." So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead. 23 On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites." (Judges 4:15-23) When God called Deborah and Barak to deliver his people out of the hand the king of Canaan, they engaged in battle with his army that was under the commander of Sisera whose army was routed before the Israelites and he fled and went to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber. Her husband was not there, but being a woman who fear God knew what to do with the enemy of God. She treated him wisely till she put him to death. God wants such kind of women who fear God, who even at home they do the great work of the Lord. They are blessed women and well mentioned and recommended in His word, "24 Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women. 25 He asked for water, and she gave him milk; in a bowl fit for nobles she brought him curdled milk. 26 Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. 27 At her feet he sank, he fell; there he lay. At her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell—dead." (Judges 5:24-27) The woman who fears God the Holy Spirit flow through her and The Holy Spirit would give wisdom to such women and teach them how to act and to behave. In the case of Jael the wife of Heber when Sisera asked her for water she brought him curdled *milk* that will put him easier to sleep, and she gave it to him *in a bowl fit for nobles she*  **brought him curdled milk**, just to give him the impression that he is in a safe place, and he even requested her, "If someone comes by and asks you, 'Is anyone in there?' say 'No.'" She acted with him shrewdly till she put him to death. Women who fear God will put an end to the work of Devil and with the wisdom that they will receive from God will not allow devil to enter their homes and families.

4- The wife of a man in Bahurim who hid the two sons of the priests who were carrying a warning message to king David to protect him from Absalom: "15 Hushai told Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, "Ahithophel has advised Absalom and the elders of Israel to do such and such, but I have advised them to do so and so. 16 Now send a message at once and tell David, 'Do not spend the night at the fords in the wilderness; cross over without fail, or the king and all the people with him will be swallowed up.' "17 Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at En Rogel. A female servant was to go and inform them, and they were to go and tell King David, for they could not risk being seen entering the city. 18 But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So the two of them left at once and went to the house of a man in Bahurim. He had a well in his courtyard, and they climbed down into it. 19 His wife took a covering and spread it out over the opening of the well and scattered grain over it. No one knew anything about it. 20 When Absalom's men came to the woman at the house, they asked, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" The woman answered them, "They crossed over the brook," The men searched but found no one, so they returned to Jerusalem. 21 After they had gone, the two climbed out of the well and went to inform King David. They said to him, "Set out and cross the river at once; Ahithophel has advised such and such against you." (2Samuel 17:15-21) Such a woman or other women alike, who knew the will of God and work with the Lord to promote His missions and protect His church is what the church needs today.

*My dear and beloved:* To fear God is to understand the will of God and stand firm with His purpose and plan and work with God to achieve all that as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for showing me clearly the truth of your word. Lord builds in me the fear of yours in my life so that I can stand firm for your cause and purpose. Lord gives me discernment to be able to grasp and understand your will and your good plan in my life and in the life of your people. Lord I am willing to suffer and go along with your will in serving you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 10:12)

"Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 31:12) "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind." (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

"He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." (Revelation 14:7)

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