



CONSECRATE

TO BE SET APART

VESSELS FOR THE MASTER'S USE



2 Chronicles 16:9 testifies that “the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” The Lord is always looking for willing vessels to fulfill His purposes. Time and time again, when it seems as if all hope is lost, God has a way of protecting, sustaining, and restoring those who belong to Him. Although on so many occasions we see the Lord showing Himself strong, His deliverance typically comes at the hand of someone who was willing to submit to His plans and purposes.

It is possible to read the stories of the Bible, look at the main character in the story, and falsely believe that God could never use us in that way. We may also think that we are not able to do what others have done before us. The truth is that we don't have to be willing and able, we simply need to be willing and available. It is God who is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all we could ever ask or think, according to His power” (Eph 3:20).

This month holds both the National Prayer Day as well as Mother's Day. In efforts to honor our mothers and pray for our nation, our focus will surround some of the qualities that awesome women of God have displayed and how they were vessels for God, used to bring victory to the people and nation of Israel. While reading, we should remember that “God is not a respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34). Every believer has a call on their life to be used by God. Unfortunately, “many are called, but only few are chosen” (Matt 22:14). The mark of the called can be identified by those who simply accepted the call and comply with its conditions.

God said in Jeremiah 1:5, “before I formed you in your mother's womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” As we read our daily devotions, let us accept the call and comply with the conditions. We have been chosen to make an impact on a nation.

Information on Fasting	Bethel Prayer Schedule
<p>Visit BethelWorld.org and the May 2018 devotional for information on the purpose of fasting, helpful tips while fasting and appropriate things to do and not do during a time of fasting.</p>	<p>Monday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary. Tuesday: Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary. Wednesday: Monthly church-wide day of Prayer and Fasting - Prayer at 6AM & noon in the former sanctuary - 7PM service.</p>

“Preserving A Nation’s People”

READ

Genesis 50:20 • Psalm 5:12 • Psalm 84:11 •
 2 Corinthians 2:8 • Romans 8:28 • Psalm 23:6 •
 Proverbs 8:35 • Proverbs 21:1

REFLECT

All throughout the Bible, we see numerous of plots against the people of God in efforts to enslave or destroy them. Yet, each time we are left to view God’s display of sovereignty as he protects and preserves His people. In the book of Esther, the Israelites found themselves in a peculiar situation. Because of hatred from the king’s top official, Haman, the Jewish community faced the threat of total annihilation throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. Without truly being aware of the impact of his decision, the king was influenced to make a decree against the Jews that would condemn all of them to be destroyed. Conversely, we see God strategically place Esther in the midst of controversy. Here she finds favor from the king to preserve the people of her nation.

Proverbs 21:1 declares that the king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. It is not a coincidence that Esther found favor with everyone she encountered. She was graced by God for His purpose. The question worth knowing is why did God favor her? During one of the most intense points of the storyline, when the Jews were facing persecution, Mordecai suggests to Esther that she was put in her position for “such a time as this”. Promotion does not come from man, but from God. He does not give us favor for bragging rights or selfishness but to be used as vessels to accomplish his purpose.

Where has God placed you to make a difference?

What are some of the things that hinder us from being vessels of God?

What is God saying to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Repent for any time God’s favor was not used to glorify Him
- Ask God to show you how to be a good steward of His blessings
- Thank God for His favor

“Deliverance For a Nation”

READ

Proverbs 28:1 • Romans 8:31 • Hebrews 13:6 •
Joshua 1:9 • Psalm 27:14 • Isaiah 41:10 •
Acts 18:9-11 • Ephesians 6:10-11

REFLECT

In the book of Judges, we see a pattern of disobedience that led the people of God deeper into sin and further away from Him. As a result, the Israelites continued to forfeit the promises of God and often found themselves in some form of bondage. In the fourth chapter of the book of Judges, the children of Israel had been oppressed for twenty long years by Jabin, the Canaanite king. We then meet Deborah. A prophetess and a judge, she has been given the task of bringing the tribes of Israel together to fight their oppressor. With boldness and confidence in God, she is able to bring deliverance and peace to her people for forty years.

Proverbs 28:1 proclaims that “the righteous are bold as lions.” This must have held true for Deborah as she boldly pursued an enemy boasting of 900 chariots of iron with only 10,000 soldiers. It is important to note that her courage and boldness were not based on feelings or assumption, but rather the word that God had already spoken to His people. She reminded the people that God had commanded them to “GO”. Like Deborah, if we trust in the Lord, acknowledge Him in all our ways, we can be confident that He will direct our path. Even when the odds are stacked against us, we must commit to reading and hearing the word God has for us. God is our provider, our sustainer, and our ultimate deliverer!

How can we use the Bible to help contribute to our boldness?

Why should our confidence come from God?

What is God speaking to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Repent for any time you have been fearful instead of bold
- Ask God for the confidence that only comes from Him
- Ask for wisdom on when to be bold

“Salvation to All the Nations”

READ

Psalm 119:9 • Philipians 4:8 • Matthew 5:8 •
2 Timothy 2:20-21 • Philipians 2:14-1 • Psalm 24:3-4 •
1 John 3:3

REFLECT

According to Romans 5:12, through one man sin entered into the world and brought forth death. Consequently, death would spread to all men. Priest after priest would make daily sacrifices that could never purge sin at its source. Men of faith would indeed seek to honor the Lord in their best efforts; yet, from generation to generation man's sinful nature persisted with its seed. However, there would be a High Priest pure enough to offer himself as a single sacrifice for sin, good for all time. Just as it was prophesied in the book of Isaiah, a virgin would conceive and give birth to a son, and He would be called Immanuel (God with us). This Priest, this Son, is Jesus the Christ.

What man could not accomplish, the Holy Spirit would, through the vessel of a woman. Chosen by God, Mary would help to bring about salvation to all nations. What a remarkable assignment! They are many things we can glean from concerning the life of Mary, but one of the main virtues she exemplifies is purity. We can learn from her devotion to purity as it set her apart from all other women on the earth. Even when man questioned her purity, we see God step in and validate her through the voice of His angels. She received favor from the Lord and was entrusted to carry His only begotten son. 2 Timothy 2:20-21 reminds us that there are both vessels of honor or dishonor. Like Mary, the honorable vessels will be set apart to do the work of God.

Why is God attracted to purity?

How does purity make us better vessels to serve God?

What is God speaking to you through this devotional?

RESPOND

- Repent for any rejections of living in purity for God
- Ask God to show you areas of your life that have not been surrendered to Him
- Write down some of the benefits of living pure and holy

