

Divine Favour



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Esther 5:1-3

1 Now it came to pass on the third day that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

3 Then said the king unto her, what wilt thou, Queen Esther? And what is thy request? It shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

(KJV)

The above Bible text tells a bit of the story of Queen Esther. Who was divinely favoured. From her experience, we can learn a few things on divine favour. For example, you will observe that she put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house before she was granted favour. Why did she put on her royal apparel? Apart from the rule that she could not come before the king uninvited, it would also have been rude, uncomplimentary and indecent for the

queen to have attempted to approach the king in her night dress or kitchen overall.

Today, what used to be our mother's underwear is what some women wear to parties, and even to their workplaces. No wonder divine favour is alien to many of them. It's been said that you will be addressed the way you are dressed. To obtain divine favour in the sight of God, you need to be clothed in your royal apparel of righteousness which Christ gave to you when you receive salvation (**Revelation 1:5-6 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen", 19:8 "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints"**).

You will also observe that when the king saw Queen Esther, the sight of her produced divine favour, as he then held out to her the golden sceptre that was in his hand. When your time of favour comes, the first thing is that you will be identified for attention. My prayer is that the Almighty King of kings will look in your direction and identify you for His favour today in Jesus' Name. **In Genesis 18:1-5 "And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And**

he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, so do, as thou hast said", Abraham was sitting in front of his tent, just relaxing at home, when favour located him. After his show of hospitality, the carriers of favour wiped away his tears of so many years as they declared these words to him in **Genesis 18:10** "I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life, and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son".

The Lord will cause His favour to produce declarations that will wipe away your tears in Jesus' Name. The favour Queen Esther enjoyed was actually divine in nature. Indeed, before appearing before the king, she had first sought the Lord's favour, and this was what later manifested itself as favour with the king. **Esther 4:16** says: "Go gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish".

I therefore encourage you to seek the Lord's favour and stop cutting corners. Live a life that is pleasing to the One who has the heart of those who must favour you under His control, and you will not be denied your rights in Jesus' Name.

Genesis 2:18-25 " And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed".

We reflected on divine favour and discovered that divine favour is for those who seek it from God. Today we will be considering the blessedness of having a good spouse as

a form of God's favour. A blissful marriage is a divine gift and a mark of favour from the almighty God. Some men and women maltreat their spouses because they fail to realise that having a wife (not just a woman) or a husband (not just a man) is God's favour. The truth of the matter is: a blessing you do not appreciate will depreciate in your hands as a result of abuse or misuse. It is evil to abuse the gift of God that is your spouse. From the Bible text, we see how God graciously provided Adam with a helper comparable to him, since none of the other existing creatures could meet his needs. The Lord knew that this helper must share the same image that Adam shared with God, and hence He created the woman. From this deed, one can understand why God frowns at sexual perversion, particularly homosexuality, and bestiality.

The Bible in Deuteronomy 27:21 say **"Cursed be he that lieth with any manner of beast. And all the people shall say, Amen"**. Beloved, the Lord is calling on you today to cherish the gift He has given to you in the form of your spouse. It is an act of ingratitude for you to maltreat your spouse who is an embodiment of the Lord's favour in your life. Speaking to both parties, the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:21 says, **"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."**

Let there be mutual submission between the two of you. Learn to say "sorry" to one another whenever you wrong each other. To the Christian husband, please love your wife

(Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it"). You have our Lord Jesus Christ as a role model to copy, being the Husband of the Church. The same unconditional and enduring love with which Christ loves you must be extended to your wife, rebuke the ego that has been preventing you from apologizing to your wife whenever you wronged her in the past. May the Lord help you in this regard in Jesus' Name.

To the Christian wife, I appeal to you not to allow that strange woman to take advantage of your pride and steal your husband from you. Please submit to your husband as the head; he did not make himself your head, God did (Ephesians 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord"). May the Lord preserve your home for you in Jesus' Name.

Genesis 39:1-6

1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

(KJV)

Do you know that you can attract divine favour through your attitude to work? When we diligently carry out our duties, whether secular or spiritual, as unto the Almighty God, we are bound to be divinely favoured. It is the will of God that every employee does the right thing to justify the wages he or she earns. This was the reason why the Holy Spirit moved Paul to instruct us to be diligent in our service to our employers, be they private or government institutions (**Ephesians 6:5-7** "**Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eye service, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord,**

and not to men”).

We all need divine favour, not only to succeed but to succeed without stress. What can we do to attract divine favour in our chosen careers? The answer is diligence and faithfulness to the terms of our agreement with our employers. There was nothing extraordinary in what Joseph did in Potiphar’s house; the only difference between him and other slaves was the divine favour operating in his life through diligence. No wonder the wisdom of God in **Proverbs 22:29** says, **“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men”**.

The first time I travelled overseas, it was to Canada for a conference of applied mathematicians. I knew no one there, and neither did I know what kind of food I would be eating over there. All my wife could do at home was to pray that God would take care of me. Meanwhile, someone in Canada went to see the list of mathematicians coming to their university for the conference. As he was looking through the names, he saw my name, Enoch Adeboye, and he mused to himself that he never could tell if the owner of the name was French or not.

He therefore decided to locate the room where I was staying, and resolved within himself that when he got there, he would speak Yoruba and that if I responded, he would know that I am Nigerian. On getting to my door, he knocked and I asked “Who is that?” His response was “Emi ni”, mean-

ing "It's me". I therefore responded in Yoruba language that he should come in. Long story short, before the end of that day, I was eating pounded yam in Canada. You need to understand that divine favour can come in any way or form.

The danger is that, more often than not, most people take some forms of divine intervention for granted especially when such intervention does not affect them the way they expect. One more lesson we should learn here is that there is nothing too small or too big to pray about, especially when it requires divine favour. May the Lord show you divine favour today in Jesus' Name.