

Crown Her a King™

Restoring God's Glory to the Bride of Christ

© By Susan Dewbrew

A Towel and Basin in Two Kingdoms

© Susan Dewbrew

Both Babylon and Egypt in the Bible were used to depict the worldly kingdom apart from God's Kingdom. They embodied the essence of mankind's ruling apart from God. The worldly kingdom would always enslave God's people. – And it does still does.

Picture with me two contrasting scenarios:

Scene 1:

In the first, the movie scene looks something like ancient Egypt. A room is filled with a dozen guests who are gathered around a banqueting table. The master of the house is hosting a feast for his friends. They are laughing and talking as they wine and dine during what appears to be a festive occasion. Then an emaciated man, wearing nothing but a towel wrapped around his waist, enters the room carrying a basin of water. You can see the outline of his ribs, and his arms are pencil thin. *He is the master's slave.*

His back is crisscrossed with old scars from beatings received long ago. His eyes are dark and sunken; even if you looked deeply into them you would be hard pressed to find even a tiny flicker of light. At this moment his face is completely emotionless. He has resigned himself to his position in life, and he is truly in full subjection to his master. He will smile when his master expects him to smile... he

will even laugh at his jokes. But there is no laughter on the inside of him. The smiles and laughter do not flow from his heart. Rather, they flow from his will which is now fully yielded to another. He knows what to do on cue and is good at going through the motions. He locked away his true self long ago to fit into the role expected of him.

Once his spirit was broken, once he resigned himself that this was his position in life, then winning his master's approval became all that mattered. Now his master no longer needs the whip to get his way, for the slave understands without being told that his value comes from pleasing the powerful one. He is beneath his master and must serve him to the best of his weakened ability. The more the slave yields to his master's will the better it goes for him.

The spiritless skeleton walks across the festive room with the basin of water in his hands. None of the guests even notice him as he approaches his master. Then this shell of a man bends down and to wash to his master's feet.

* * * * *

Now erase that movie screen in your mind; shake the etch-a-sketch to start with a clean slate. Picture with me a very different scenario.

Scene 2:

The setting is ancient Israel when Christ walked the earth. Tonight is the feast of the Passover, and Jesus has something special planned. God proclaimed that this particular feast should continue perpetually as it rehearses Israel's supernatural deliverance from centuries of being held in bondage as *slaves* in Egypt. -- *It is the feast of freedom!*

Now here in the upper room, Jesus gathered the twelve disciples around a banqueting table as He hosts the Passover's Seder dinner. By this point in time, Jesus has walked closely with these men for three and half years. Through

experiencing His love, His miracles, His teaching... there is no doubt they know how amazing and powerful this Man is – He even raised the dead! They are beginning to grasp that He is the long awaited Messiah. He is indeed their Rabi, their Lord -- *their Master*.

Here, in this room filled with a dozen men gathered around a banqueting table, our Master is hosting a feast for his friends. They are laughing and talking as they wine and dine during this festive occasion. As the host, Jesus leads them through the ceremonial parts of the Seder dinner. Then, unexpectedly, the Master does something out of the norm for this occasion.

He gets up and takes off His marvelous robe. It's the same robe that Roman soldiers will be casting lots for tomorrow afternoon. He slowly and purposefully wraps a towel around his waist as He fills a basin with water. He approaches Peter first. He, the Master, intends to bend down and wash each of the disciples' dusty, dirty feet.

The room falls silent. All laughter stops. Then Peter protests! How can the Master serve him like a slave? But Jesus, as an act of His will from a position of strength and honor, chooses to do so. He is not being forced. He is not even being asked. He is serving from His heart, and on this eve of His execution He is teaching them how to live and lead as freemen.

* * * * *

These were two very different pictures, yet in each one a man with a towel and basin bend down to wash another's feet. SAME ACT IN THE NATURAL. However, can you see the difference in the kingdoms? Can you see the difference in the men?

The first is a story of human domination and subjection. It is a picture of the dark kingdom which seeks to dominate and control as the stronger force their will upon the weaker. It robs human beings of their true identity as the beloved apple of their Creator's eye. It places them in the bondage of slavery where they have no choice and where bully-cowards rule. The kingdom of darkness forces people to come into agreement with the lie that they are lower in stature and therefore must

serve others from this place of weakness. First it robs them of their true identity, then their strength... and finally their freedom.

The second is a story of strength and honor. It is a story of a valiant, powerful person who voluntarily gives of himself to serve others. As an independent act of His own will, He serves from a place of strength and dignity.

Jesus teaches by demonstration what honor, servant-hood, and freedom look like in the Kingdom of God where kings rule nobly. The first scenario was a story of human subjection, but the second is a story of Kingdom leadership and submission. It's beautiful; it's powerful... and it is completely voluntary.

You see, slavery demands you yield your will to the master.

That is the antithesis of freedom; it is the antithesis of love. There had to be two trees in the Garden because love always offers a choice. For love never demands its own way. Love never controls or manipulate, and it does not dominate or force.

Freedom is the epitome of love; you cannot have one without the other.

“It was FOR FREEDOM that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, emphasis added).

Freemen live out their HEART. Slaves do what they are told.