



FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL



“Intergenerational Collaboration and Continuity”

By Lisa Pak

3 Models that are found in the Bible (there are more but just as an example):

- 1) David & Solomon – Good example of intergenerational continuity in leadership.
- 2) Solomon & Rehoboam – A lesson in generational hubris.
- 3) Mordecai & Esther – A great example of generational collaboration and contending (to bring out the best in one another).

A) Mordecai’s Personal Investment into Esther.

- Mordecai is her older cousin who raises Esther like she is his own daughter (Esther’s parents have died).
 - o Sacrifice, love, personal interest, and genuine care in her future and well-being.
- Mordecai helps Esther navigate the social and political dynamics of palace harem life because she is young, naïve, and inexperienced.
 - o Directs her not to reveal her Jewish heritage because he’s aware of the anti-Semitic sentiment amongst those in power (e.g. Haman)
 - o 2:11 – Mordecai takes a walk near the courtyard everyday to make sure she’s okay and find out what’s happening.
 - o Esther is not just an extension of Mordecai and he doesn’t use her in some play to gain more power and position for himself.

B) Esther Honours and Respects Mordecai.

- Esther knows she is unfamiliar territory; she is a beautiful “plaything” in a man’s world
 - o 2:11 & 2:20 – Esther follows Mordecai’s advice.
 - o 2:15 – Esther follows Hegai’s advice.
- Esther has an agreeable and teachable spirit.
- Esther continues to follow Mordecai’s advice when she first becomes Queen.

- Esther honours and gives proper credit to Mordecai when he discovers a plot to assassinate the king (2:21-23)
 - o Mordecai reports to Queen Esther (rightly so).
 - o Esther gives credit and honours Mordecai even when she didn't have to not that she is Queen.
- There is mutual respect between Mordecai and Esther.
 - o Esther is not a child anymore.
 - o Mordecai will always be her father-figure but as she grows into her own and becomes the Queen Consort, another dimension is necessarily added to their relationship.

C) Mordecai Challenges Esther but doesn't Tell Her What to Do.

- Mordecai has perspective and wisdom to see how God is moving and what He is doing.
- 4:13-14 – Mordecai's challenge to Esther doesn't come out of a vacuum.
 - o Mordecai is probably the only one in Esther's orbit that can:
 - Speak to her with such candid openness.
 - Speak to her in such a way that she is appropriately challenged.
 - o He can do this because he had a deep, personal, respectful, loving relationships with her beyond the political dynamics of the palace; proven and demonstrated authentic relationship that undergirded their "professional" roles.

D) Esther Chooses, Prays, Commands and Acts.

- Esther responds and recognizes that this is 100% her part/role.
- Mordecai cannot function in this arena even if he wanted to;
 - o He does not have the same kind of access to the palace or proximity to the king like Esther does.
- Esther commands Mordecai to give her what she needs prayer, fasting, and spiritual support.
- Esther is politically savvy and keenly aware of how to use her femininity in the Persian courts to reveal Haman's vile plan to murder all the Jews.
 - o She masterminds two feasts; she is the sole mouthpiece for the Jewish people and she puts her virtue up against Hama's schemes.

Things to Consider:

- Esther is the only one able to enter this arena precisely because she is younger female.
 - o There are clear generational roles and expertise that both Mordecai and Esther uniquely bring to the table.
- Esther would not have become the woman she became without Mordecai's care, nurture, protection, and counsel.

- God raised up Esther to be in the precise position she was so Haman's plan would not come to fruition; Mordecai recognizes it and so do we. God raises Esther up for such a time as then.
- Intergenerational collaboration is not a 50-50 relationship but rather both sides must go 100-100.
- Seeds that were planted 3-4 generations ago are now coming to strength.

Q: Who are the rising leaders in your community right now that God is preparing for such a time as this?