

MICHAL/MIKAL/ AND VASHTI

While preparing the story of Uzzah I read further verses after those relating to the event when David was bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem for the second time. He was full of joy that he had atoned for his previous neglect which caused Uzzah's death. Therefore David danced before God of Israel and his wife Mikal saw it. Let's read this fragment from 2Sam6: 16-23 the story of Mikal:

*„As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, **she despised him in her heart. [she was filled with contempt for him.**NLT] They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD. After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes. When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!” [She said in disgust, “How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!” NLT] David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.” And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.” [So Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life. NLT] 2Sam6:16-23 NIV*

Who was Mikal?

*„In the meantime, **Saul’s daughter Michal** had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it. “Here’s another chance to see him killed by the Philistines!” Saul said to himself. But to David he said, “Today you have a second chance to become my son-in-law!” Then Saul told his men to say to David, “The king really likes you, and so do we. Why don’t you accept the king’s offer and become his son-in-law?” When Saul’s men said these things to David, he replied, “How can a poor man from a humble family afford the bride price for the daughter of a king?” When Saul’s men reported this back to the king, he told them, “Tell David that all I want for the bride price is 100 Philistine foreskins! Vengeance on my enemies is all I really want.” But what Saul had in mind was that David would be killed in the fight. David was delighted to accept the offer. Before the time limit expired, he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines. Then David fulfilled the king’s requirement by presenting all their foreskins to him. So Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife. When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and how much his daughter Michal loved him, Saul became even more afraid of him, and he remained David’s enemy for the rest of his life.” 1 Sam 18:20-29 NLT*

Mikal loved David. In this passage we read **twice** that Mikal loved David and yet this love was not enough to be able or **to be allowed to** bear fruit. Because when she saw him as if "naked before God" in the moment of his utmost joy while fulfilling God's will, she despised him...because **she decided** that according to her standards he was behaving unworthily. She felt disgusted with him, which had dramatic consequences in her life.

This is another story so worth considering !!! Although Mikal loved her husband, she despised him in her heart when she saw him in the moment of his greatest, pure and sincere joy before God ... as if "naked" before God and people, and felt contempt towards him!!! Dear wives, search your hearts if there have been any comments made by you about your husbands or any thoughts showing contempt

to your husbands? David was joyful before God! He was God's servant and man of God and Mikal despised him just when he was so close to His Creator!

The Bible tells us how wives should behave towards their husbands who are not faithful to the Word. It says:

„Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, (1 Pet. 3:1 NIV) [„In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over” NLT] [In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over EST]

Since wives should be silent and utter no negative comments on the behavior of their husbands **who are unfaithful to the Word of God**, then Mikal's criticism towards her husband who was **exalting God** is disgraceful!!! How should have Mikal behaved when she saw her husband in an act of such great and solemn exultation and worship to God? She should have rejoiced with him! She should have praised God that her husband's intention to bring the ark of the covenant home to Jerusalem had been successful. We can read the description of this event in the Spirit of Prophecy - it was a very solemn day:

“The triumphal procession approached the capital, following the sacred symbol of their invisible King. Then a burst of song demanded of the watchers upon the walls that the gates of the Holy City should be thrown open” {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 707.3}

Then the gates were opened wide, the procession entered, and with reverent awe the ark was deposited in the tent that had been prepared for its reception. Before the sacred enclosure altars for sacrifice were erected.” {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 708.5}

On such an important day, at this very moment when:

“...David danced before the Lord,” in his gladness keeping time to the measure of the song.” {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 707.1}

Exactly at that very moment when:

*“...David turned toward his palace, **“to bless his household”** ... there was one who had witnessed the scene of rejoicing **with a spirit widely different from that which moved the heart of David.** “As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, **Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.” In the bitterness of her passion she could not await David's return to the palace, but went out to meet him, and to his kindly greeting poured forth a torrent of bitter words. Keen and cutting was the irony of her speech.”** {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 708.7}*

During that wonderful night she might have become a mother...instead she criticised her husband what actually meant that she cursed him...She did it towards a humble God's servant who either then as now was a rare case as there have been very few truly pious men on the earth. Like a typical woman, instead of greeting her husband with joy and a good meal, she greeted him with a stream of bitter words! She treated him disrespectfully. She did not appreciate that David showed that he had a sensitive heart to God's admonition. David cooperated with God. On that day he was the executor of God's will and rejoiced in the joy of Heaven and all Israel. Michal quite contrary acted highly recklessly,

unwisely and unreasonably ... heartlessly, without love, without understanding, without empathy ... She did not participate in what was the most important thing for her husband. She did not share his joy and didn't understand his joy. She did not enjoy what he was enjoying at that moment ... She did not participate in what was very important to him. She did not feel the presence of God's Spirit, the closeness of the Creator; she did not understand her husband's mission. Her stupid remark entered between her and him ... with this event she revealed that her love for David was only sensual, human love ... that she did not have unity in spirit with her husband ... she didn't love God ... so as a person hostile to God ... she had no right to God's offspring ... from the seed of David ... God's seed.

Another woman in the Bible who disdained her husband is Vashti, who while „... Xerxes ruled his empire from his royal throne at the fortress of Susa. In the third year of his reign, [he] **gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials** and invited all the military officers of Persia and Media as well as the princess and nobles of the provinces (Esther 1:2-4 NLT) also gave a party for women:

„Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women in the palace that belonged to King Ahasuerus.” Esther 1:9 ESV

„On the seventh day of the feast, when King Xerxes was in high spirits because of the wine, he told the seven eunuchs who attended him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas— to bring Queen Vashti to him with the royal crown on her head. He wanted the nobles and all the other men to gaze on her beauty, for she was a very beautiful woman.” Esther 1:10-11 NLT

but called by her husband to appear before him, she refused – showing disdain to him and his guests and buried herself in his eyes:

„But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.” Esther 1:12 NIV

Vashti is another wife who shows contempt to her husband....

”Then Memukan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, “Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes. For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, ‘King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.’ This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.’ Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she. Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest.’ The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memukan proposed. He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language, proclaiming that every man should be ruler over his own household, using his native tongue.” Esther 1:16-22 NIV

Do we think that God's Law does not relate to us today? Do we think that life has advanced so much that God has been forced to "modernize" and *follow the spirit of these times* and has begun to accept female domination over men? Do we think that God has accepted the women's rule at homes, and their critical talkative nature which disgraces them as God's creatures? Where is the true devotion to God among women? Does the fact that we are buried under a pile of feminist slogans and views justify our ignorance as women and believing in God wives? Are we truly and deeply exploring the Word of

God, wanting to know what we should be like in words, gestures, deeds towards our God's husbands? Do we truly fear God as wives and mothers and women and explore what we need to be like in order to reflect the glory of our husbands and God?

Today we have no living role models of True God's marital love. At least I don't see any such role models around us. Today, the only model for us is Jesus Christ and His devotion to His Father. Our role model and the highest pattern is God Elohim. Are we so fixed on Jesus as to draw from Him an example of His service and relationship to the Father, which we should transfer to the service for our husbands? What deep contact must we come into with Jesus to learn to love our husbands and be as devoted to them as Jesus was devoted to His Father! Can a wife who treats lightheartedly God's matters achieve this high God's standard of love and devotion towards her husband? Of course not! So, when are we going to begin exercising our personal, profound piety? Maybe it is worth putting your pride aside and starting today to bow down your head in front of the Creator of the Universe and thank Him for the husband He has given you and enter the deep cooperation with Him to help Him lead your husband to male perfection which must also become yours. Our husbands will look at our female hearts full of God's love for them and their flaws will begin to melt because they will want to love us as Christ loved His church... This is our task and our role to fulfill.

Our next task is to bring the children who are his children, who came out of our womb, to God's family. This is the measure of motherhood, whether we will manage to lead his children to the state of salvation, to the gates of heavenly Canaan. The measure of motherhood is not the number of meals prepared, diapers changed or toys cleaned up after the child has played with them; the measure of motherhood is also not the hardships of pregnancy, then the sleepless nights when the mother watches over the baby - it almost does not count ... the successful effect is whether the child chooses God the Father or whether the children will be brought to a state of repentance. Therefore, today, let's start taking seriously matters concerning motherhood and eternity ...

Let neither the story of Mikal nor Vashti - become our part !!! This is what I wish for us in blessed hope!

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