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Joseph, Ruth, Esther, David and Daniel; what do these bible personalities have in common? They had significantly inspiring life stories because they became great men and women of influence in spite of their life challenges. They had remarkably good attitudes to the challenges they faced and took seemingly ordinary decisions and actions that yielded extraordinary results both in their lives and in their generation. However, more puzzling is the fact that out of all these people, only Joseph had the privilege of being pre-informed through dreams that he would become a great man in future. The others simply did not know what would become of them in the future; not Ruth, not Esther, not David and definitely not Daniel.

Preparing for a known pleasant future could be exciting because you know exactly what to expect and what is expected of you. Much of life is really not like that; most of the time, we don't know the details of our future. Even Joseph who had dreams about his future never anticipated the path he eventually took to the throne. Just like dressing up is an important preparation for an upcoming event, our preparation for the

future is like dressing up. However, because the details of our future are usually hidden from us, preparing for our future is often like dressing in the dark; the darkness of the early hours of the morning, where the kind of clothes you wear are not clear until the day dawns and all eyes can see clearly. So, how can you make your uncertain future become certain? What can you do now that would make your future predictably great?

Although you may not know for sure the details of the future, soldiers, engineers, doctors and other professionals don't know either, but they received certain fundamental training that turned them into people who have what it takes to respond to and handle any kind of situation in each of their fields. Through their training, they secured their future; they were prepared. What preparation could you make in order to have what it takes to have the outcomes of the great men and women of the bible listed above? The following preparations of David and Daniel who never had a vision or revelation of the future that came upon them would be general and basic enough to get you ready when the master calls you, into whatever He calls you. It would be interesting to know that even Joseph who knew what his future would be like actually made similar preparations like those who didn't have any dream about their future.

1. DESIRE THE CONSTANT PRESENCE OF GOD WITH YOU

One constant quality that was common to the lives of these great people of the bible was the fact that they desired the constant presence of God with them and they had what they desired. Although invisible GSM signals may be present in the air all around us, but only those who have airtime on the SIM card of the network in a functioning handset can enjoy the benefits of the signals for themselves and others. It was as if each of the lives these great people of the bible was a powerful handset with a SIM card of God's invisible network such that their lives made the presence of the invisible God become visible to everyone through the things that happened to them.

Of Joseph, it was written,

"And the Lord was with Joseph, and he did well; ...and his master saw that the Lord was with him, making everything he did go well... and gave him control over all he had. And... the blessing of the Lord was with the Egyptian, because of Joseph...(Genesis 39:2-5, BBE).

Of David it was written,

And in all his undertakings David did wisely; and the Lord was with him. And when Saul saw how wisely he did, he was in fear of him. And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David...and Saul was yet the more afraid of David... (1Samuel 18:14-15, KJV)

Of Daniel it was written,

Then King Belshazzar was greatly troubled and ...the queen, made answer and said, O King, have life forever; do not be troubled by your thoughts or let the colour go from your face: There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, light and reason like the wisdom of the gods were seen in him: ... (Daniel 5:9-11, BBE).

Certainly, God must have been merciful unto these great people so much that God was always visibly present with them. What did they do to secure the favour and the mercy of God? Was it that God was just randomly merciful to them without anything they did or was there something they did that drew the favour of God and people to them? Be sure that if there was something they did, and you do the same things they did, you will also secure the constant presence of God with you today and always for a predictably great future, even if you really don't know the details of that future.

2. HOLD ON TO MERCY AND TRUTH

A closer look at the word of God shows us that there was something they did to secure the favour of God upon their lives. They were greatly merciful, firmly truthful and they loved deeply so much that they worked hard and went the extra mile for God and for people. "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man." (Proverbs 3:3-4 KJV). This was the secret of the favour of God upon them. Even Jesus knew this secret and lived it out and got the same results. Jesus Christ... (the Word) was ... full of grace and truth. (John 1:14) and... he consequently increased in ... favour with God and man (Luke 2:52, KJV).

The atmosphere of our world today is saturated with evil and deceitful seduction (2Tim 3:13) but through the light of mercy and truth, such atmosphere of darkness can be pushed back. Truth means speaking sincerely, doing things in secret that you will not be ashamed of if discovered, refusing to yield to the peer pressure of the multitude when they want to do what you know is wrong. Truth also means that when you see a need in the lives of others which you have the power and time to do something about, you will not pretend that you have not seen it just because of the hard work that meeting the need requires of you. For you to be able to speak or do the truth, you have to be firm and tough on yourself. However, mercy means giving yourself reasons to forgive those who offended you, going the extra mile to sacrificially use your powers to rescue and help the helpless as well as to repay or 'revenge' the evil that people do to you by plotting good things for them in return. For you to be merciful, you have to be tender hearted; only a merciful heart can truly love.

Perhaps you are filled with wounds and pain in your heart because of what some people have done for you and it is difficult to forgive them, your future is very uncertain until you have mercy on them. Perhaps, you live a deceitful life in order to survive or gain acceptance from people, your future is very uncertain until you drop your mask and live truly. If you submit your life to Jesus Christ and make Him the Lord of your life, He will give you mercy and truth as He comes into your heart because He himself is full of mercy and truth. Secure your future not just by receiving Christ into your life but by obeying Him through a life full of mercy and truth.



In order to go into the entire world and preach the gospel to everyone, you must be full of mercy and truth. It takes a merciful heart to sacrificially go out of your way to take the gospel to people around you (when you know that they may insult you when you do) just because you know that they need to be saved and would be eternally lost in hell if they do not receive the gospel. It takes a merciful heart to take the gospel to those whose culture and language may even be different from yours. However, no matter where we are, as we live lives that are **true** to the gospel we have received; their hearts will open to the truth of the gospel. As you prepare for a future that is full of details that you don't know, as you dress for your future today as if you are dressing in the dark, put on the clothes of mercy and truth; they will never fail you as the future day of your life dawns and unfolds. Remember, when you are going somewhere, it is wise to dress for where you are going rather than where you are.

