THE BEAUTY OF COURAGE AND WISDOM

(by Elizabeth George)

(Author of the Remarkable Women’s of the Bible)
A bit of biblical wisdom states, “By Long Forbearance a ruler is persuaded” (proverbs 25:15) and God’s beautiful Queen Esther offers us an example of this powerful precept put into practice.

Esther was a Jew who learned that Haman, the right-hand man to her husband, king Ahasuerus, had received permission “to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews” (Esther 3:13)

Esther also knew that only her husband, the ruler, could intervene to save her life and the lives of her people and that she must persuade him to do so!

What a beautiful picture of grace, wisdom and patience God paints in Esther’s life as she show us how to effectively persuade other people by following some practical steps of wisdom.

Step # 1. Stop- Before trying to rightly handle a wrong situation, Esther Paused. She didn’t rush headlong into just any course of action.

Step # 2. Wait- Time is precious asset which cannot be bought. Waiting gave Esther time to gather the facts (Esther 4:5)

Step # 3. Consult- Waiting also meant important time for Esther to seek counsel from her wise cousin Mordecai (verse 12-14)

Step # 4. Pray- Waiting gave Esther to fast and pray about her task and how she would approach the king (verse 16)
Step # 5. Decide- Time, counsel and prayer moved Esther to choose a plan of action and move forward with the triumphant attitude of “if I perish!” (verse 16)

Step # 6. Act- Before she asked for what she wanted, Esther prepared a special dinner for king Ahasuerus and Haman to test the waters and assess the king’s frame of mind (5:4-5)

Step # 7. Adjust- Discerning and sensitive to the situation, Esther wisely waited and prepared yet another dinner before asking her husband to save her people (verse 8). During this second banquet Esther made her request, and the result, by God’s grace working through Esther’s wisdom, the king acted to protect the Jews!

Esther’s path of wisdom can be yours too. Nowhere in the ten chapters of Esther’s story will you find anger or agitation, violence or panic, rashness or reaction. Esther knew that out-of-control emotions do not accomplish God’s will. Every woman can stop, wait, consult, pray, decide, act and adjust.

Why not follow this path the next time you face a challenge?

Relying on God’s wisdom enables you and Him together to accomplish His will in His way.

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MEET THE GIGI TEAM

Martha Hughes
Martha is one of the GIGI team members. She loves working with children and has been actively involved in children’s ministry for 25 years.

Did you know that Martha is a brilliant cook? We call her master chef because she can whip up anything and actually make it look just like the picture in the recipe, but best of all, it tastes amazing.

Martha has loved being Frank’s wife for the last 13 years and enjoys being the mother of Charlotte 10 and Kimberley 8.

They are her miracle babies. The Doctors had told Martha that she would never be able to have children and just as she considered IVF, she fell pregnant with her first daughter and a year later she was pregnant again with her second girl.

“I am truly blessed and I believe that God can still do great miracles,” She says. May God keep blessing Martha as she dedicates more time doing His work and blessing others with GIGI.

(Ps: Martha is also twin with Maria – you will meet Maria next month)

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Seven Layer Dip
Ingredients

- 2 cups cans refried beans
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 cups guacamole
- 1 1/2 cups salsa
- 1 1/2 cups shredded lettuce
- 1 cup shredded Mexican-blend cheese or grated yellow cheese
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- 1 green onion, sliced, for garnish

Instructions

1. Combine refried beans and taco seasoning together then spread onto the bottom of a serving dish with 2-inch sides.
2. Spread sour cream over the beans leaving a border of the beans showing.
3. Repeat with each ingredient, each time leaving a border of the previous ingredient so you can see all the layers.
4. Sprinkle the green onions over the top.
5. Serve with tortilla chips, Corn chips or dried crackers.
SONSHIP

Just a little reminder about Batuna Adventist Vocational at the Solomon Island school home economics department they are in need of sewing machines, material, patterns, scissors, needles, etc... We are hoping to send out the items donated early next year, and to help this girl to finished their studies.

For more information or to make donations please email Clinton Jackson: c江ackson@bac.qld.edu.au

You can also visit their Facebook page HERE
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