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A JEWEL IN HIS CROWN

Refer to chapter 1 in *A Jewel in His Crown*.



GEM OF THE DAY

“She is a woman of excellence whose life’s goal is to adorn the crown of her Master” (p. 13).

1. Consider what you spend most of your time and energy focused on. Careful inspection of this reveals where your true interests lie. Based on how you spend your time, what is your primary life goal? Circle one or write in your own idea.

Beauty

Marriage

Educational achievement

Successful career

Family

Glorifying God

Financial security

Other _____

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb.

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

Psalms 139:13–14

U NDERSTANDING GOD’S WORD

2. The psalmist says we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Read the following passage and reflect on what you learn about your worth in God’s eyes. “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:29–31).

PART I
A JEWEL IN HIS CROWN



3. Consider one of the brightest jewels in the King’s crown—Mary, the mother of Jesus. (Mary’s story is recorded in Luke 1:26–38.) What trait or characteristic can you uncover about Mary from her response to the angel in Luke 1:38 that would explain why she may have been the one chosen to bear the Messiah? Do you have that same characteristic?

“God looked down on the earth and saw many women who were potential mothers for Jesus, but after the search was complete, He chose Mary. She was a virtuous woman who loved and cherished both herself and her Lord enough to go through what was undoubtedly the most agonizing experience of her life” (p. 15).

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.” Luke 1:30

4. Mary understood how precious she was to God; therefore she accepted His plans for her with great joy. Why is it easier to trust God and obey Him when we are confident that He loves and favors us?

5. God’s favor = God’s protection, God’s sovereignty, God’s blessings, God’s anointing, and much more! Take some time to think about what God’s Word says about your incredible worth. Start by meditating on Psalm 139:1–18. Write out a few of your favorite verses—either from Psalm 139 or elsewhere—in the space below. What do these Scriptures tell you about God’s perception of your value?

PART I
A JEWEL IN HIS CROWN



*A*PPLYING GOD'S TRUTH

6. Think for a minute about a modern, real-life example of a woman of excellence (preferably someone you know personally). Describe her below. Then compare your own characteristics with those that make you admire this woman.

7. How would you want others (friends, family, coworkers) to describe you as an example of a woman of excellence?

8. How comfortable are you with thinking of yourself as a precious, priceless jewel in the King's crown? Check one. Why?

very comfortable somewhat comfortable uncomfortable

9. Thinking of ourselves as royalty may take some getting used to! This is especially true when our background, past relationships, family, etc., may have given us conflicting messages. Make a list of people or situations that have influenced your perception of yourself. Compare those influences with what Scripture says about your worth to God.

PART I
A JEWEL IN HIS CROWN



RECORDING KEY INSIGHTS

10. What verses or insights from today's study were particularly significant to you? Write them below and journal about what they mean to you.

TAKING ACTION

11. What will you do differently as a result of today's study?

SETTING THE STONE

Allow these verses to inspire your prayerful response to God today:

- Psalm 103:11**—That I will know his measureless love for me.
- Jeremiah 1:5–10**—That I will do what God has appointed me to do with confidence, knowing He loves me.
- Luke 1:28**—That I will recognize myself as God's favored one.



BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Refer to chapter 1 in *A Jewel in His Crown*.



GEM OF THE DAY

“We can’t shine on the outside unless God’s power is at work on the inside. No matter how much work we put into the outside, it will be worthless unless we are plugged into the true power source of our beauty. All the makeup in the world will not matter when the inside is a mess” (p. 26).

1. Approximately how many minutes or hours per day do you spend beautifying or taking care of yourself physically? _____ Approximately how many minutes or hours per day do you spend beautifying or taking care of yourself spiritually? _____ What does this simple comparison reveal about your priorities?

U N D E R S T A N D I N G G O D ’ S W O R D

“If you are royalty, you don’t have to flaunt it—people will just know. They will know because of the air that you carry, not because of the stuff that you carry. . . . A diamond doesn’t have to be flashy or flamboyant to be breathtakingly beautiful” (p. 22).

Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 1 Peter 3:3–4

PART 2
BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT



2. Read 1 Peter 3:3–4. With what must you adorn your inner self in order to be precious in the sight of God? What are some practical ways you can do this?

3. Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and Proverbs 31:30. In what ways do you depend on your external appearance to find favor with others or with God?

4. Let's look at the example of another virtuous woman, Hannah, in 1 Samuel 1:1–28. We have no record of Hannah's outward appearance. What insight can you glean from this passage about her heart?

***Charm is deceitful
and beauty is vain,
But a woman who
fears the Lord, she
shall be praised.
Proverbs 31:30***

“If Hannah had been outside of the will of God, she would not have experienced all the joy and blessing that God intended for her. If she had given birth to Samuel any earlier than at the intended time, it would have been the wrong time. God had a plan that exceeded Hannah's deepest desire. He was interested in what her son would do for the entire nation of Israel” (p. 17).

5. Reflect on how Hannah expressed her devotion to God's desires in 1 Samuel 1:10–11. What is the deepest desire of your heart right now? Try putting it into words below.

PART 2
BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT



6. Have you shared this with the Lord? If so, how do you believe He has responded?

*A*PPLYING GOD'S TRUTH

7. We often worry about our *circumstances*, what's going on outside of us. God is more concerned with our *character*, what's happening inside us. As He did with Hannah, God uses our external circumstances to mold our character. How is God working on the person you are becoming as you wait for the fulfillment of your heart's deepest desires? How does this bring Him glory?

8. What may be holding you back from letting Him have His way in your life? Prayerfully journal your confession and desire to repent regarding what God reveals to you.

*R*ECORDING KEY INSIGHTS

9. What verses or insights from today's study were particularly significant to you? Write them below and journal about what they mean to you.

PART 2
BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT



TAKING ACTION

10. What will you do differently as a result of today's study?

SETTING THE STONE

Allow these verses to inspire your prayerful response to God today:

- Psalm 19:14**—That my heart's deepest desires will please God in all respects.
- Matthew 23:26**—That I will prioritize spiritual beauty above physical beauty.
- Ephesians 3:20**—That I will remember He is able to do more with me than I can imagine.

