A Slave at the King’s Table

**Read:** II Kings 24:15; Jeremiah 52:31-34; Daniel 1:8

**Text:** Proverbs 23:1-2 “When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider

diligently what *is* before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou *be*

a man given to appetite.”

**Introduction:** There are inherent dangers for the one who would de-light in associating with influential people. It is a thing that is easy to dismiss until it is you who are faced with the possibility of meeting or spending time with a person of importance.

Jehoiachin was a king in captivity. He had been removed from his throne and cast into prison overnight. After several years in captivity his fortune changed. Perhaps it was because he had changed. In the book of Jeremiah we catch a glimpse of how our enemy convinces us to compromise.

**First, he uses Pleasant words:** he “spake kindly unto him.” It is amazing how the way that we speak can change a situation. A wife or husband that learns to speak pleasantly to their spouse can defuse an argument much more easily than one who “speaks their mind.” One or two angry words can change a peaceful day into a nightmare. Satan is the master of pleasantries. He knows how to manipulate situations or people by the misuse of words.

Just because words are pleasant and make us feel wonderful doesn’t change reality. Jehoiachin was still a captive even with the improved rhetoric.

**Second, he uses Position:** he“…set his throne above the throne of the kings that *were* with him in Babylon.” That would be the other kings that Evilmerodach, king of Babylon, had captured and enslaved.

We live in a world of people who love titles and positions. Preachers are called doctors. Recently I heard a man introduced on the radio: He was the Reverend Bishop. I’m not sure just exactly what a Reverend Bishop is or what the qualifications are but it must be important to the Reverend Bishop to be one.

**Third, he uses Possessions:** he “…changed his prison garments” All Jehoiachin had to do was go to the mall and pick up his new duds. He no longer looked like a prisoner. He was dressed like his new position dictated. He was still every bit a captive but he sure didn’t look like one. Satan is happy to provide a few accessories if it will make you feel better. He is all into feelings. It is a sad fact that the church world that is more focused on feelings than on what is Biblical.

Most of Christians are Americanized and therefore rate our success by the size of our bank account or amount of possessions. We live with the philosophy: “He who dies with the most toys wins!”

**Fourth he uses Pride:** “…there was a continual diet given him of the king of Babylon, every day…” He sat at the kings table every day. What a location for a former inmate. The sin of pride is so easily activated in our lives. Solomon said: “Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” Show me the Christian who falls away and I assure you that the sin of pride is alive and well. Show me the Christian who justifies sin in his or her life and I will assure you that the sin of pride is alive and well.

**Conclude:** When our enemy allows us to sit at his table, eat his food, and wear his clothing; it is easy to believe that all is well. When our enemy speaks nicely and gives us a fancy title we may believe that we were wrong about him being the enemy. Many are the Christians who have been lulled to sleep by the seductive voice of the enemy. Many are those who have been seduced by gifts and praise.

Daniel 1:8 tells us the answer to satan’s temptations: “…Daniel pur-posed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank:”

Hebrews 11:24-25 says: “By faith Moses, when he was come to years,

refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to

suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of

sin for a season;”

Jesus didn’t have to go to the cross but He did. Jehoiachin had all the outward trappings but was still not free.

How about you? Have you settled for the look of freedom but in reality are still in bondage?