If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. When the king’s decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honor their husbands, both great and small” – Esther 1:19, 20, NKJV

Has your husband ever asked you to do something and you flatly refused? Did your refusal do serious damage to your relationship? Did you explain to him why you refused? Would that have made any difference? Was there even a good enough excuse to explain your behavior? Did you at any time regret turning him down?

Queen Vashti didn’t seem to have any problems refusing to go to her husband. She continued to party with her friends with no thought of how her behavior would come across to them or to the king and his guests. He requested that she joined him at his banquet so that he could show her off because she was quite beautiful. Perhaps it was for this reason that he married her. I don’t think there was any love in the marriage, at least not on her part. There was no respect there. He wanted her to join him and she flatly refused. How embarrassing it must have been for him when the seven eunuchs he had sent to fetch her returned without her. He was humiliated in front of company. Anger burned inside him. This was the Queen refusing the King. That was unthinkable. Her disrespectful behavior had to be addressed and dealt with.

King Ahasuerus sought the advice of his closest advisors and one of them came up with an effective solution—replace Vashti with someone better. The king deserved to have a queen who would show him the respect he, as the head of his house, deserved. And she should set a good example for the rest of the women. Vashti had given the women the impression that it was okay to dishonor their husbands but the proposed decree would make it so that all husbands, big or small, rich or poor would have the respect of their wives. Each man would be a king in his castle and would not have to put up with a disrespectful wife. The king liked and approved of this recommendation and Vashti was banished. Not long after he found his new queen in Esther. She was a more suited wife and queen than Vashti. It seemed like Vashti liked being a queen but not a wife. When a woman marries a man, she is in it to be a wife, companion, etc. to him not to enjoy the perks.

If your husband asks you to do something, unless, it goes against the teachings of the Bible, honor his request. Don’t dishonor him or embarrass him because of your pride or whatever the reason is. Remember when you honor your husband you are honoring God and His Word.
**Devotional**

_Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your heart to my knowledge; For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you? – Proverbs 22:17-21, NKJV_

When we receive wise counsel, we are to digest and then apply that knowledge. We keep it inside us just as a child who is trained up in the way of knowledge, when he is older, he will carry that knowledge in him for the rest of his life, using it to guide him along the way—helping him to make wise decisions. God’s truth is there for our use. When we see how it works and changes our lives in ways we couldn’t have imagined, we will be more inclined to share what we know and have experienced with those who are seeking answers.

**Health Matters**

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey – Mark 1:6, NKJV.

I always wondered about John the Baptist’s diet of locusts and wild honey. The honey part I get but locusts? Then, I remembered that in Leviticus 11:21, 22, God said, “Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind.”

Apparently, locusts are an excellent source of protein, more so than chicken. They contain iodine, phosphorus, iron, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, calcium, magnesium and selenium and fatty acids. Hmm, I think I will pass. Now, on to a sweeter and more palatable part of John’s diet. Honey. It has many wonderful benefits besides sweetening tea, some of which I was not aware of. Here are ten:

1. It has antibacterial properties which are used to treat wounds
2. It is a natural alternative to cough medicine
3. It prevents allergies
4. It can be applied to sunburn
5. It is a good treatment for acne
6. It fights indigestion
7. It contains several minerals such as Potassium, Magnesium, Zinc and Iron
8. It has vitamins
9. It relieves constipation when mixed with Apple Cider Vinegar
10. It is an antiseptic

John the Baptist’s diet was simple but very effective. It kept him physically healthy and mentally fit to accomplish the work God sent him to do. It was his staple diet. What’s yours? Whatever it is, do it to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).