

Esther - Week 3

Drunk King/Defiant Queen/Divine Providence

Esther 1:15 "According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?" he asked. "She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes that the eunuchs have taken to her." 16 Then Memucan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, "Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes. 17 For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, 'King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.' 18 This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord. 19 "Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she. 20 Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest." 21 The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memucan proposed. 22 He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, proclaiming in each people's tongue that every man should be ruler over his own household.

- The king put himself in a position to be **impaired** in his ability to make decisions.
- Vashti's Greek name was A/mes/tris, and she was known for being **ruthless**.
- But in this case again she had to go, so Esther could come. Again, divine **providence**.
- The king should have taught us this truth: You will never get the **respect** you need and desire with brute force or with a demanding heart.

God speaks 4 ways:

1. Through the Word
2. Through the Holy Spirit
3. Through **authorities**
4. Through circumstances

The faith walk is when all four line up to say the same thing, and we step out in obedience to what God is telling us to do. That's the avenue to continue in our faith.

Roles of a Husband

1. You're the **head** of your home. You're called to be a **protector**, a provider, and a priest.

2. You are called to **love** your wife. Love is not just a choice, it's a **learned** behavior.
3. You are called to meet her needs. You must lead her, love her, and **listen** to her.
4. You are called to be a **servant**.

Roles of a Wife

1. You're called to be a **help-mate**. You're a comforter, a **completer**, and a companion.
2. You're called to a life of **submission**.
3. You're called to **love** your husband, honor and respect him.
How do you honor him?
Don't **nag** him, and **don't smile** when you're right—we hate that.

Why are the roles so important yet so difficult?

- Roles are determined not by giftedness, but by calling.
- The **joy** you receive in life will be directly affected by the fulfilling of your roles.
- **Criticism** of your mate will not make them fulfill their roles any faster.
- Fulfilling your roles will directly affect the training your **children**.

Final Thoughts

- Trust your **faith**, not your feelings.
- Measure your **value** through the roles God gives rather than the eyes you look through.
- See things from God's **perspective**.