

GODLY LEADERSHIP ESTHER

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 7 • Esther 2 • November 3, 2010

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther 1** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ ESTHER 2:1-4

Note: Some years have passed between chapters 1 and 2. Commentators say that during that time period King Xerxes waged war against Greece and was disastrously defeated.

2. In **V1**, why do you think the King thought about Vashti now?
3. Who gave the King advice, and list the things they proposed Xerxes should do to replace Vashti in **V2-4**.
4. a) What can you say about King Xerxes decision-making process in **V4**? (See also Esther 1:19)

b) To what weakness of Xerxes do you think each group appealed in their advice to him:
Memucan - Esther 1:16-19 _____
Attendants - Esther 2:2-4 _____
5. King Xerxes was manipulated by counselors who appealed to his weaknesses. Share a time when you have been prone to similar influences.

SECTION II: READ ESTHER 2:5-18

6. List what you know about Mordecai from **V5-7** and **V10-11**.

7. What do you know about Esther from **V7-10**?
8. What insights do you have about Esther and Mordecai's relationship from **V10-11**?
9. Explain the process all the girls went through in the harem? (**V12-14**)
10. a) When it was Esther's turn to be with the King, how did she prepare, and what were the results?
- b) Why do you think that Esther won the favor of so many people? See **V9, 15, &17**.
11. a) By what standard do you think King Xerxes judged Esther as the replacement for Vashti? (**V17**)
- b) Xerxes was obviously taken by the physical beauty of Esther. In what situations do you let physical appearances influence your choices?

SECTION III: READ ESTHER 2:19-23

12. In **V19**, virgins were assembled a second time for Xerxes. What do you think this suggests since Esther was already his crowned queen in **V17-18**?
13. In **V21**, who were Bigthana and Teresh, and what were they planning to do in **V21**?

14. How was the plot uncovered, and what was the result in **V22-23**?

15. For what purpose was God using Esther's beauty?

16. For what future purpose could God be using Mordecai's position at the gate?

17. a) Reflect on your own life: the opportunities, accomplishments, positions and talents, and list some of them.

b) Prayerfully consider how God may be using them for His higher purposes? Write a prayer in response.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We have heard it said: "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." What insights does Scripture give when considering beauty?

Proverbs 31:30 _____

Isaiah 53:2 _____

1 Peter 3:3-5 _____

2. From the following passages, what should be a believer's attitude and response to earthly governments?

Acts 5:27-29 _____

Romans 13:1-7 _____

1 Peter 2:13-17 _____

