

Esther - Saving Face

Esther 1 ❖ Mark 6:17-29

“Providence is the care, protection, guidance, and work of God even when He isn’t asked, recognized or desired. Esther is a case study in providence. Christians should know their lives are not controlled by luck, fate or knocking on wood. God gives His providential, fatherly care through the extremes of life.”

(“The Journey,” Don Elliot, p. 97)

Introduction to the Book of Esther

Who: The author identifies himself in Esther 9:20 as Esther’s _____, Mordecai, a _____ living in _____, which is modern-day _____.

When: The date is _____ B. C., a few years after King _____ issues a decree allowing most of the Jewish _____ to go home.

What: Esther is the intriguing story of God’s _____ protection of the exiled _____ who did not return to Israel.

Where: The narrative takes place in Susa, the _____ city of Persia, which is on the border of Iraq and Iran, about 100 miles north of the Persian _____.

Why: Esther was written to give the historical foundation for the origin of the Jewish Feast of _____.

Fascinating Fact: The name of _____ does not appear anywhere in the book of Esther, though the _____ of God is on each page.

A Weak King and a Brave Queen

England’s King _____ VIII had _____ of his six wives executed. Why? Because they failed to give him a _____ heir. We now know that the _____ determines the sex of a child.

As the book of Esther opens, the King of _____ is Xerxes, the most _____ man in his day.

His Queen is a beautiful and very _____ woman named Vashti.

“King Xerxes gave a _____ for all of his nobles, officials and military leaders that lasted _____ days. Then he gave another banquet for _____ the people in Susa, from the _____ to the greatest that lasted _____ days. Each guest was allowed to drink as much _____ as he wanted” (Esther 1:3-5, 8).

“During the 7-day banquet, the King got very _____ and demanded that the Queen come to his banquet so he could show off her _____ to his guests. She _____, and the King burned with _____” (vv. 10-12).

“Xerxes’ advisors warn him that when Vashti’s conduct becomes known to the other _____ in the kingdom, there will be no end of _____ and _____. So the King _____ Vashti from his court and issued a proclamation that every man should be _____ over his own household” (vv. 16-22).

Another Weak King

Some 500 years later in Jerusalem, “King _____ had John the _____ arrested and put in _____. Herod had married his _____ wife, Herodias, and John told him it was _____, and though Herod knew John was a _____ and _____ man, his new wife wanted John _____ (vv. 17-20).

“On his birthday, Herod gave a _____ for all of his high officials, military commanders and leading men. Herod’s _____ danced, and it pleased Herod and his _____. ‘Whatever you want, I will give you, up to half of my _____’ Herod _____ her. She asked her _____ what she should ask for, and Herodias said, ‘The _____ of John the Baptist on a _____.’ Herod was greatly distressed, but because of his _____ and his dinner _____, he did not want to refuse her. So he had John _____” (vv. 21-29).

Takeaway

When it is our goal to save _____, we commit grievous _____.

“Wives, _____ to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord (Colossians 3:18) is balanced by “Husbands, _____ your wives and do not be _____ with them” (v. 19).

Let’s do some praying about the _____ in our relationships.

