

**Theme:** This world is not a safe place (especially for the people of God) because it is ruled by sinners. Their power can be used unpredictably, selfishly and often, wickedly. For security we look to the Eternal King whose rule is righteous, gracious and just.

## **Introduction**

### **Background:**

- Ahasueras: Another “all-powerful” king
- Vashti: Who is she?

## **I. The king’s power displayed**

- A. “Observe my wealth!”
- B. “Observe my authority and power”
  - 1. Drink according to an edict
  - 2. “Bring the Queen!”
    - “There is no compulsion”? *Not for Queen Vashti!!*

## **II. The king’s weakness exposed**

- A. By Vashti - “NO!”
  - 1. Her refusal
  - 2. Her motives?
    - No clues given.
    - Not meant for moral judgment or spiritual example.
- B. The advisors
  - 1. The refusal could be a quiet matter.
  - 2. “Isn’t there a law?”
    - He *demand*s to be respected!
    - He does not *command* respect in his person.

**NOTE: Now we see who really has power.**

- 3. Memucan’s problem & solution
  - a. If my wife hears this, she’ll stand up to me.
    - This will *destroy the entire empire!* (18)

- b. Make a decree!! (19)
  - Guarantee that everyone hears about this!
- c. Banish her!

### III. Life under the “King”

#### A. The world under Ahasuerus

- 1. A world ruled by capricious decree.
- 2. A world of hard choices.

#### B. The world we live in? Not all the different is it??

- 1. This can be a *dangerous place* for God’s people.
- 2. *Moral complexities* that aren’t always readily answered with a law or rule command.

#### C. *Life under the true King*

- 1. Make way for the New Queen.
  - **To rescue the people of God from annihilation!**
- 2. Nothing in this life is without purpose.
- 3. **Patience!!**
  - We wait to see God’s plans and purposes unfold.
- 4. The glory and glitter of this world can’t be taken too seriously.
- 5. Ruling by *His Living Word*.