

THE CURTAIN RISES (Esther 1:10-22)

A. Let's Understand the PRIMARY FACTORS that LED to the DETHRONING of QUEEN VASHTI. (1:3-22)

1. It all began with a *lavish royal banquet by the King.* (1:3-6)
2. It involved a *serious drinking party that was voluntary and without restraint.* (1:7-8)
3. It included a *separate banquet for the women hosted by Queen Vashti in the royal palace.* (1:9)
4. It involved an _____ *command from the _____ King.* (1:10-11)
 - What were the king's eunuchs commanded to do to Queen Vashti? (1:10) What strikes you funny about this process?
 - What was the king's command and why was this given? (1:11)

What must you remember as a believer regarding drinking alcohol and the use of other controlling substances?

- 1) While drinking alcohol is ____ sin, drunkenness is _____ by God in both the OT (Prov. 20:1; Isa. 5:11, 28:7-8, 56:11-12) and the NT (Rom. 13:13, 1 Cor. 11:21, Eph. 5:18, 1 Thess. 5:6-8) which indicates this a permanent principle for all dispensations and ages.
- 2) Drunkenness is a _____ and is a ____ (Gal.5:19), oftentimes with _____ and _____ results (Prov.23:20-21, 29-35; Hosea 4:1; Gen.9:21; Deut.21:20). The believer needs to turn to the Lord in prayer and faith-rest in His promises, not turn to a bottle, to find inner peace or to deal with the pressures of life (Phil. 4:6-7).
- 3) Drunkenness is _____ through the blood of Christ (1 Cor.6:9-11), and _____ in light of a believer's POSITION IN CHRIST and through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT (1 Cor.6:19-20; Eph.5:18).
- 4) Drinking wine is not strictly forbidden among believers in Christ as it is an area of _____ and _____ in which each believer will give an account for at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:1-12); thus, you are not to JUDGE other believers in these areas, nor are you to put a STUMBLINGBLOCK for others to fall as your liberty is not designed to indulge your flesh and to do your will but to _____ in love. (Romans 14:13-18) A believer must not violate his CONSCIENCE & CONVICTIONS before the Lord in drinking alcohol, and must be willing to totally abstain if it would cause himself or another believer to stumble, or be offended, or be made weak (Rom.14:20-23; 1 Cor.8:9), or if it would be a bad TESTIMONY to the unsaved (1 Cor.10:31-32).
- 5) While it is not wrong to be present when unbelievers are drinking alcohol (Matt.11:19; John 2), believers are not to _____ with fellow-believers who are drunkards (1 Cor. 5:11), nor pursue or participate in _____ (1 Peter 4:1-4).

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- What can married believers learn from this scenario? That a failure to be _____ & to be fulfilling of your _____ leads to many marital problems. (Eph. 5:18-33)

5. It (the King's command) invoked an _____ from the Queen which incited the King to become extremely _____. (1:12)

- Was the queen justified in refusing the king's command? What did this require for her to refuse?
- Was the king justified in reacting in great anger? What must you remember about uncontrolled anger?
- What can you learn from this regarding delegated authority and submission in any realm?
 - 1) That people in authority need to remember that all authority comes from _____ (whom they give an account to) and has its scriptural _____. (Acts 5:29)
 - 2) That you must stand upon your personal _____, but you need to make sure that they are _____ in nature and _____ carried out. (Daniel 1)

6. It resulted in the dethroning of Queen Vashti. (1:13-21)

- What did the Persian leadership fear because of Vashti's refusal to obey? Was there some truth to their assessment? (1:13-18) But what is motivating this and was the King a victim?
- What did Memucan recommend that King Ahasuerus should do? (1:19a) What must you remember about the counsel you receive from others?
- What was probably behind the laws of the king not being able to be altered/repealed? (1:19b) What does this again underscore the importance of?
- Besides the dethroning of Vashti, what else was recommended and why? (1:19c)
- What supposedly would the king's edict accomplish? (1:20) Would it? Could it?
- How did the king respond to this proposal? (1:21) How should he have responded? What can husbands can you learn from this?
- What was intrinsically foolish and very ironic about all of this?

7. It resulted in a royal decree to every Persian province that "each man should be _____ in his own house, and speak the language of his own people." (1:22)

- What can you as a *believer in Christ* learn from this section ...
 - 1) About *yourself* – that your sins such as drunkenness, anger, vindictiveness, and pride can have _____ upon your life.
 - 2) About *your personal convictions* – that you need to stand firmly upon _____, leaving the results to God.
 - 3) About *your circumstances* – that life isn't always _____, even when you do what is right.
 - 4) About *your God* – that He is _____ working out His will for your life.

What must you remember as an *unbeliever without Jesus Christ as Savior*?