



We Prefer Law **Esther 1:13 - 2:4**

Esther 1:13-15 Then the king said to the wise men who knew the times (for this was the king's procedure toward all who were versed in law and judgment, 14 the men next to him being Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom): 15 "According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?"

- Were they wise men?
- Everybody looks for wisdom somewhere.
- Was power the motivation?
- The Law is:
 - Power
 - Control
 - Order
- Grace is:
 - Messy
 - Loose boundaries
 - Not getting what is deserved (Romans 6:23)
- Grace scares us.

Esther 1:16-18 Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, "Not only against the king has Queen Vashti done wrong, but also against all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. 17 For the queen's behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.' 18 This very day the noble women of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will say the same to all the king's officials, and there will be contempt and wrath in plenty."

- Embellishment.
- Is it good for wives to respect and honor their husbands? Absolutely.
- They were manipulating the king, feeding his pride.
- Getting respect is not legislated. It must be freely given.

Esther 1:19-21 If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. 20 So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike.” 21 This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed. He sent letters to all the royal provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, that every man be master in his own household and speak according to the language of his people.

- After this decision, four years go by including a 2-year, unsuccessful war campaign against Greece.
- Largest, most well equipped army ever put into the field up to this time.
- Xerxes: bridges built in error, beheads engineers, stabs waves, shackles water.
- He was drunk with power.
- Total land and naval defeat.

Esther 2:1-4 After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. 2 Then the king's young men who attended him said, “Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. 3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them. 4 And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.” This pleased the king, and he did so.

- When his anger had abated, there was another opportunity for grace.
- But He remembered the wrong done to him...and remembered the law.

The Law drives us to grace.

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

When we truly understand grace...understand from what we have been delivered, what we deserve... we will worship Him for it and extend it to others.