

EXIT STAGE RIGHT... FOR A PERSIAN QUEEN

(Esther 1)

I. THE PERSONAL SELECTION OF ESTHER (1: 1-2: 23)

A. The DETHRONING OF VASHTI. (1:1-22)

1. The *enormous feast of the king*. (1:1-8)

- * Why did Ahasuerus have this banquet?

- * How long did this feast last?

- * Who was involved in the conclusion of this party?

- * What was a key activity that was voluntarily engaged in?

- * What can you learn from this?

2. The *insensitive command of the king*. (1:9-11)

- * What was the queen doing during this banquet?

- * What were the king's eunuchs commanded to do?

- * What did this command involve? And why was this given?

- * What can married believers learn from this?

3. The *deliberate refusal of the queen.* (1:12)

- * How did the queen respond to this insensitive and selfish command?
- * How did Ahasuerus react to Vashti's refusal?
- * Was the queen right to refuse his command?
- * Was the king right to react the way he did?
- * What can you learn from this?

4. The *resultant dethroning of the queen.* (1:13-21)

- * What did the Persian leadership fear because of Vashti's refusal to obey?
- * What did Memucan propose that Ahasuerus should do?
- * What supposedly would this accomplish?
- * How did the king respond to this proposal?
- * What was intrinsically foolish about all of this?

5. The *royal proclamation of the king.* (1:22)

- * What can you learn from all of this?