
THE ASHLAND
CHURCH OF CHRIST IN 2009

“Note Those Who So Walk”

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

“Note Those Who So Walk”

Vashti – God above Husband

Text: Esther 1:3-22

Esther 1:12, *“But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.”*

I. The circumstance (3-9).

- A. The first feast was for the dignitaries and lasted 180 days (3-4).
- B. The second feast was for all the people in the palace and spanned a week (5-8).
 - 1. During this time, wine was available in excess for all.
 - 2. We also notice that the king promotes his wealth. When arrogance is involve, the event is doomed.
- C. The third feast was led by the queen and given for the women who generally were separated from the men during this time period (9).

II. The command (10-11).

- A. The king was ‘merry with wine’ indicating he was intoxicated which interestingly enough leads to his own moral decline (10).
 - 1. He thus consults his cabinet and makes an order which is not morally upstanding.

2. “When alcohol is involved, the wicked become more so and the mild become wild.”
- B. He calls for his wife in order to show her off (11).
1. Josephus claims he wanted her to be naked.
 2. Certainly, it is implied that he wanted his people to lust after his wife.

III. **The refusal** (12).

- A. Good people will refuse to do what is wrong.
1. It does not matter who is asking. If it is wrong, then it is wrong.
 2. See Acts 5:29.
- B. Her courage was equal to her modesty.

IV. **The king’s response** (13-22).

- A. The inquiry of the king to his servants concerning this matter (13-15).
1. He consults his cabinet whose names are recorded.
 2. He did not like what took place. At some point in this sequence of events, the motivation for his actions moves from intoxication to pride.
- B. The reasoning of the counselors (16-18).
1. Essentially, they reason that her ‘bad influence’ will cause other women to disobey their husbands. Therefore, she should be punished.
 2. In actuality, a good example like hers will only affect things in a good way.
- C. Memucan’s answer (19-22).
1. Vashti will not be queen anymore (19-20).
 - a. This command is not to be altered. It is permanent.
 - b. It will be published essentially becoming a threat to all remaining ladies.
 2. The king followed this advice (21-22).
 - a. It pleased him to do so.
 - b. It was communicated to everyone.