



Title | Where Is God?
Series | IN SPITE OF MYSELF
Text | Esther 1:1-22
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | April 23, 2017

Sermon Notes

Esther 1:1 Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces, **2** in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the citadel, **3** in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him, **4** while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days. **5** And when these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace. . . . **10** On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded . . . the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, **11** to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at. **12** But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him. **13** Then the king said to the wise men . . . **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?" **16** 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. . . . **19** 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a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus.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. . . .
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Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Esther 1:12

But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command . . .
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For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

- Have you experienced a time in your life when God seemed to be painfully absent? How would you describe it?

Tuesday:

- Why do you think the book of Esther was cherished by many Jewish inmates of Nazi concentration camps? Why would the Nazi's have opposed it?

Wednesday:

- Read Esther 1:1-22. What similarities do you see between what happened then and what's happening now in the world? Does anything laudable happen in Esther 1? If so, what is it, and why is it laudable?

Thursday:

- Think of all the various areas of your life: your work, your school, your club, your church, your home, your neighborhood, your government, your culture. In which areas does God seem most absent?

Friday:

- When God seems painfully absent, is there hope? If so, what is it, and how can you apply it to your life?

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come at the king's command . . .

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