

onechurch

bigIdea



1%. It appears to be such an insignificant percentage. Can a fraction that small affect the whole? You might be surprised. History reminds us that 1% of a group of people can impact the other 99%. During the 1960's, Dr. Martin Luther King led the civil rights movement with only 1% of the U.S. population on board. During the 1420's, a teenage girl named Joan of Arc led 3,000 French knights into battle, achieving her goal with less than 1% of the population. And in 483 B.C., God used 1 Jewish girl to save the lives of millions of Jews from annihilation.

BIG IDEA: Even when you can't see God, choose to trust Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you toured a mansion estate or attended a grand party that left you speechless.
2. What was the longest party you have attended? How long did Xerxes' party last? (Esther 1:4)
3. At the end of Esther 1:4, the Bible gives us the reason Xerxes held a party. What were those reasons?

...a tremendous display of the opulent wealth of his empire and the pomp and splendor of his majesty. Esther 1:4

4. Read Esther 1:3-8. How does the parties or the mansions you've been to compare to this scene?
5. Read Esther 1:9-12 and list all of the things you learn about Queen Vashti, as well as what you can infer about her.
6. Compare the end of verse 4 with the end of verse 11. Why did King Xerxes want Vashti to come to his party (look back at your answer to question #3)?
7. Offer three possible reasons from your own perspective why Vashti might have refused King Xerxes' order.

So far in chapter 1, we have seen a 6-month drunk fest in Iran. We have no mention of Esther, the person for whom the book is written. We don't even have any mention of God in this story. Strangely enough, you will see that God's name is never mentioned in the book of Esther.

8. Does that seem strange to you that God's name is never mentioned? If God's name isn't mentioned, then why do you think we studying this book? (Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:19-21)
9. Why is it easier to believe in a God of miracles than it is in a God who works through the mundane details?
10. Read Psalm 139:7. Is there a place where God is absent? Is He absent from you?

THINK ABOUT IT

Maybe there is no greater amazement than when God works not through the miraculous but through the mundane, normal details of our lives. He is always there, behind the scenes, working His plan. When you haven't seen Him for a while, know that He is going to make a grand appearance!

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

We have asked, "Where is God in the story of Esther?", but now ask yourself, "Where is God in your story?" Is He even there? Have you banished Him to the sidelines of your life? Or have you allowed Him to be smack-dab in the middle of the miracles and the mundane of your life?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

God works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. Ephesians 1:11