

## 1. GOING DEEPER

### Esther 1: 10 – 22

1) a) What do you think motivated the king's request of Queen Vashti in verses 10 & 11 (Review Esther 1: 1 – 9 to determine King Ahasuerus' character)? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Queen Vashti's refusal of the King's request in verse 12a could certainly have meant her death. Discuss why she might be willing to take such a risk. \_\_\_\_\_

c) Discuss the driving motive(s) behind the king's reaction (vs 12b) and what lessons can we learn and apply to our own lives from this? \_\_\_\_\_

2) a) What stands out about Memucan and his assessment of Vashti's refusal to appear before the king? \_\_\_\_\_

b) How can Memucan's behavior impact on how you view and deal with others when they do not respond in the way that you would like? \_\_\_\_\_






c) What should we use as the measure for making right decisions and how we can reconcile the guidance given in Proverbs 19:20 and James 1:5. \_\_\_\_\_

3) a) Discuss the king's heart condition as reflected by his actions in vs 21. \_\_\_\_\_

b) What does Galatians 6:7 teach us about actions and consequences? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. ASSESS YOUR LIFE

1) To what extent are your decisions and actions driven by self-interest as opposed to Godly motivations?

				
I typically make my decisions and act on what I want to happen in a situation.	I often make my decisions based on what my heart desires, but I ask for God to bless the outcome.			I always seek Godly counsel and God's direction from His word and prayer before I make a decision.

2) What will you do to become more God-directed in your thoughts and actions?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. APPLICATION

Of the list above, which one(s) will you be intentional about working on this week?

\_\_\_\_\_. I will ask \_\_\_\_\_ to hold me accountable in this.

### Key Verse Esther 1: 12 (ESV)

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.

## Sermon Main Points

## Sermon Highlights

Cautions against behaviors that lead to broken kingdoms

- 🕒 You must be wary of making selfish demands.
- 🕒 Beware of following ungodly advice.
- 🕒 Understand that your actions can have long term effects.

- 🕒 When we make demands that only feed into our egos and pride, at the expense of others, this will lead to a breakdown in families and society.
- 🕒 It is important to take the time to examine our motivations and driving elements, as it is human to believe that there is nothing wrong with the way that we think or act.
- 🕒 God has established male leadership; however, it is important to note that *this is to be exercised through kindness and servant-leadership*, not demanded or legislated.

### 5 Day Study Plan ("Study to show yourself Approved unto God...")

**Day 1**

**Proverbs 16:18-19**

What I learned (observation / interpretation):

How I will Respond (application):

**Day 2**

**Mark 8:36-37**

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

**Day 3**

**Proverbs 19:20-21**

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

**Day 4**

**Hebrews 4:12**

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

**Day 5**

**1 John 4:1**

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

#### Inductive Bible Study Method



**Observation** (*What does the text say?*)

This phase is about observing exactly what the text is saying.

Pretend you're an investigator who's just gathering the facts. Ask yourself the five W's and H: (Who, what, where, when, why, how).



**Interpretation** (*What does the text mean?*)

Discover what the author is trying to communicate. And to do this, you need to look at the context to determine

- 🕒 What is the **main theme** and what is the **meaning** of key words;
- 🕒 Examine **cross references**
- 🕒 Compare **translations**
- 🕒 **Summarize** the text
- 🕒 **Use** commentaries (last resort)



**Application** (*How should this affect Me?*)

Don't study the bible just for knowledge – study for application. If you stop at the interpretation stage, you are selling yourself short. Based on what you have learnt, ask yourself "*How should this change the way I think, speak and behave?*"

Seek to identify if there are - **Sins** to confess; **Promises** to claim; **Examples** to follow; **Actions** to obey or **Knowledge** to grow in.

For best results, this content should be read and prepared privately and then discussed in your small group or with family / friends. We were not created to do life alone - get engaged today.