

RETHINKING WEALTH

Esther 1

1. A person is poor who must flaunt his wealth

while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days. (4)

2. A person is poor who has no self-control

*On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine...
...At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him. (10, 12)*

3. A person is poor who has counselors that won't tell him the truth

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. For the queen's behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.' (16-17)

4. A person is rich who stands for truth

But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. (12)

5. A person is rich who loses everything but keeps their integrity

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a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus.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. So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike." This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed. (19-21)