

ESTHER: MORE THAN A PRETTY FACE ESTHER 4

1. Esther had a pretty face!

Esther 1:11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: **for she was fair to look on.** **Esther 1:12** But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

Esther 2:2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, **Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:** **Esther 2:3** And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, **that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace,** to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: **Esther 2:4** And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

Esther 2:7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, **and the maid was fair** (יפה-תִּצְהַר) **and beautiful** (תְּהִלָּה); whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

We must start with the obvious factor – the King lived to please himself.

The primary “wife” must be:

- **Beautiful / fair**
- **Young**
- **Virgin**
- **And one that pleased the king**

Esther was all of that!

- **Beautiful of face & form**
- **And she pleased everyone!**

Esther 2:8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, **that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.** **Esther 2:9** **And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification,** with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: **and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.**

Esther 2:15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. **And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.**

Esther 2:17 **And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins;** so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- **None of this is bad**
- **The Bible recognizes beauty**

Genesis 12:11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, **Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:**

Genesis 29:17 Leah was tender eyed; **but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.**

Genesis 39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. **And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.**

1 Samuel 25:3 Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: **and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance:** but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

- **This would be both God-given and God-approved**

However, we have no story, no deliverance of the Jewish people, no Messiah / Christ if all she was – was pretty?!

EXCURSUS: PLEASURE & THE KING

- Everyone knew the king lived for pleasure
- Everyone knew the king only thought about what pleased him

Right here

Right now

Esther 2:1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

- Everyone also knew all his decisions were based on what pleased him – instant gr

This made him exceptionally dangerous

Esther 4:10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

Esther 4:11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is **not** called, **there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.** **Esther 4:12** And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

This made him highly unpredictable

This made him consistently inconsistent - arbitrary!

Esther 1:19 **If it please** (ואם-על-המלך טוב) **the king**, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

Esther 1:21 And the saying pleased (וייטב) **the king** and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

Esther 2:4 And let the maiden which pleaseth (תיטב) **the king** be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased (וייטב) **the king**; and he did so.

Esther 2:9 And the maiden pleased (ותיטב) **him**, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

Esther 3:9 **If it please the king** (ואם-על-המלך טוב), let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

Esther 5:8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, **and if it please** (ואם-על-המלך טוב) **the king** to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

Esther 5:14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. **And the thing pleased Haman** (וייטב); and he caused the gallows to be made.

Esther 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, **and if it please** (ואם-על-המלך טוב) **the king**, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

Esther 8:5 And said, **If it please** (ואם-על-המלך טוב) **the king**, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:

Esther 9:13 Then said Esther, **If it please** (ואם-על-המלך טוב) **the king**, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.

- Everyone knew (and knows – I hope) decisions based on pleasure are the worst possible decisions!

Proverbs 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Proverbs 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit Is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

1 Timothy 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

James 5:5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

Luke 15:13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance **with riotous living**.

Decisions based upon / on pleasure = Never refusing self anything!