

## JUST SAY NO!

“Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.  
<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas—<sup>11</sup> to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at.<sup>12</sup> But when the attendants delivered the king’s command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.<sup>13</sup> Since it was customary for the king to consult experts in matters of law and justice, he spoke with the wise men who understood the times<sup>14</sup> and were closest to the king—Karshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memukan, the seven nobles of Persia and Media who had special access to the king and were highest in the kingdom.<sup>15</sup> “According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?” he asked. “She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes that the eunuchs have taken to her.”<sup>16</sup> Then Memukan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, “Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes.<sup>17</sup> For the queen’s conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, ‘King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.’<sup>18</sup> This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen’s conduct will respond to all the king’s nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.<sup>19</sup> “Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.<sup>20</sup> Then when the king’s edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest.”<sup>21</sup> The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memukan proposed.<sup>22</sup> He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language, proclaiming that every man should be ruler over his own household.” - Esther 1:9-22

“Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.” - Esther 2:1

### THE PARTIES

- The King threw a party that lasted for 6 months and one week. The last week was for everyone in the kingdom.
- The queen, customarily, also hosted a banquet for the women.

### THE REQUEST

- King Xerxes asked Queen Vashti to stand before the men and display her beauty. What does this mean?
  1. Some say that men and women ate separately in this culture and Xerxes just wanted the men to admire the queen.
  2. Some say that Vashti was asked to stand before the men wearing *only* her crown; or in some way dressed inappropriately.

### LESSONS ON DECISION-MAKING!

1. Don’t make decisions in the heat of the moment!
2. Don’t make decisions when you have been drinking.  
 “On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine...” - Esther 1:10
3. Don’t make decisions when you are angry.  
 “But when the attendants delivered the king’s command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.” - Esther 1:12

### WHO SAID NO AND WHO DIDN’T SAY NO?

1. Who could say no to the king? No one. But Queen Vashti had standards that were higher than the king’s command.  
 “But when the attendants delivered the king’s command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.” - Esther 1:12
  - No matter the cost, (and it was steep) Vashti would not submit to anyone if it meant compromising what she believed to be right.
  - Vashti is not mentioned again after chapter 2.  
 “Also, let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.” - Esther 1:19
2. To whom could the king say no? Anyone and everyone. But his standards were so low that he didn’t (or couldn’t) say no.
  - The king never spoke to the queen personally.
  - The king didn’t need to speak to or listen to his advisors.  
 “Since it was **customary** for the king to consult experts...” - Esther 1:13  
 “Therefore, **if it pleases the king**, let him issue a royal decree...” - Esther 1:19
  - The king’s advisors (as is almost always the case) were more concerned with their own problems than with the king’s.  
 “This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen’s conduct will respond to all the king’s nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.” - Esther 1:18
  - The king regretted his decision.  
 “Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.” - Esther 2:1

### PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY...

1. ...Determine their limits before a decision is set before them.
2. ...Say no, even though it will cost them friendships or more.
3. ...Understand that no one else can or will say no for them.

### OUR KEY THOUGHT

- Only you can say no!

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Bible Project, Esther:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JydNSlufRIs>

Esther Kids' Stories:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7NMPqJl91o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q94wBYdMwtE>