

Esther: Born to Rule

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Questions to consider, discuss or journal.

1. In Queen Vashti, we see a display of bravery in the midst of an unjust society. Are there commonplace norms in your spiritual community that are built on traditions rooted in insecurities and misogyny? What display of bravery could you show to highlight these and begin a conversation about change?
2. When we first meet Esther she is in a vulnerable state, as both an orphan and an immigrant, and she is protected and empowered by her cousin/uncle Mordecai. How can you empower the vulnerable people in your life?
3. Artaxerxes displays repeatedly that he was inept at making decisions. Are there examples of weak leadership in your community with questionable decision making skills? How can you influence these leaders for the greater good of your spiritual community?
4. Queen Esther's decision making record speaks volumes about her ruling abilities. Is there space in your spiritual community for members to use their God given gifts for the good of the community?
5. Queen Esther demonstrates a strong type of Christ through her many actions of sacrifice and in the reversal of the law. Which type to you find the most meaningful?
6. Queen Esther's faith in God is evident in her commitment to fasting. She appeals for God's help and protection against the death sentence she may incur. What experience do you have with fasting? How do you ask God for help?
7. We see King Artaxerze battle between good-heartedness and self-absorption and the consequences that result from this battle. Have you experienced the consequences from this struggle?
8. What is the significance that the last King of Israel was a Queen? What lessons can be drawn for us?
9. The author examines the strong types and personalities that fill the book of Esther. Where do you see yourself? Who do you identify with? How can you exemplify our Leading Lady Queen Esther in your life and in your spiritual community?