

Lesson 4: Humility

Today's Bible Story

In the days of the Bible, there was a great kingdom called Persia. The ruler of the land was a rich and powerful man named King Xerxes (*ZERK-sees*). The queen was a woman named Vashti. Both the king and queen were stubborn people.

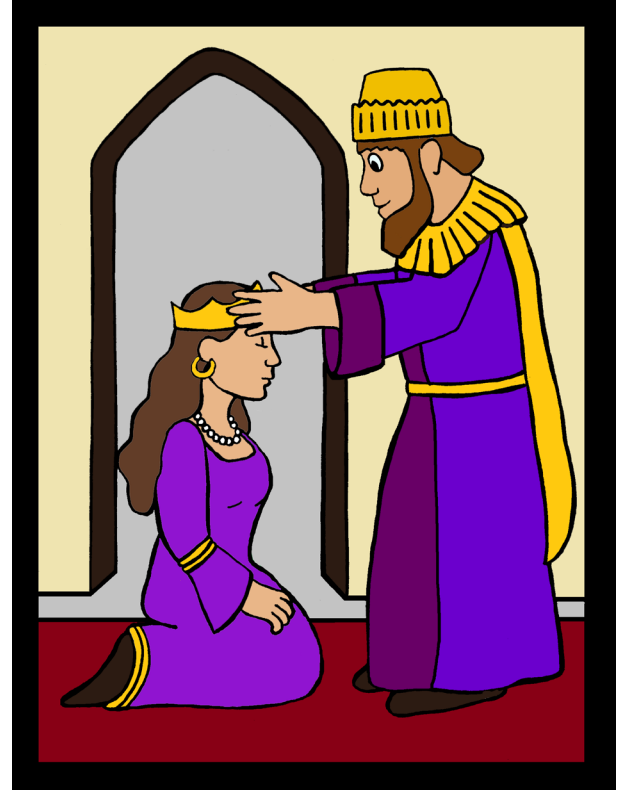
Once, when King Xerxes was throwing a party for his friends, he called Queen Vashti to come. It was not because he wanted the queen to be with him; the king just wanted to show off how pretty she was. Queen Vashti was insulted and refused the king's order. So King Xerxes removed Vashti from her position and sent her away. A message went out to tell everyone that the king would choose a new queen.

In that city, there lived a good man named Mordecai. Mordecai was the older cousin of young woman named Esther. Ever since Esther's parents died, Mordecai had taken care of her as his own daughter. When Mordecai heard that the king was going to choose a new queen, he told Esther that she should go with the other young women to the palace.

"The king would never choose me," Esther said to Mordecai, "I am a Jew. You have taught me to believe in the LORD, just like you. The people of Persia do not like the Jews who believe in God."

"But you are a fine young woman," replied Mordecai. "You are as good as any of the Persian women. I think you have a better chance than any of them. Just keep one secret; don't tell anyone that you are a Jew."

So Esther went to the palace. When the king met Esther, he was very impressed by her kind and humble nature. He chose her to be the new queen and placed the crown upon her head.



From Esther 2:5-17

Bible Rhyme

At the party of the king
Xerxes called to see the queen.
When Queen Vashti would not come,
he looked for another one.
Many women went to see
who the next new queen would be.
Each tried out before the king,
showing skills that she would bring.
One among them was called Esther;
she went in so they could test her.
Of all those that the king had seen,
he made Esther his new queen!

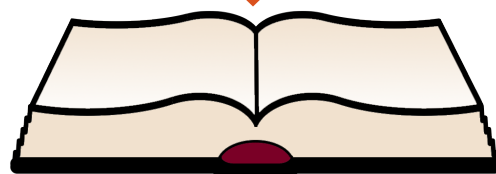
Esther was a young woman who displayed many fine and admirable qualities. She impressed all the people at the palace, including the king.



When some people look at others, they are only impressed by superficial and external things (things on the outside). But often more important are the internal qualities (things on the inside) that make us who we are.

The Bible says:

"The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."
(1 Samuel 16:7)



Listed below are a number of descriptive words. Circle the words that describe the kind of *internal* qualities that you think God wants us to have inside us.

Good LOOKS

Faithfulness

Beauty

Compassion

Wealth

Honesty

Humility

Arrogance

Kindness

Popularity

Temper

Fancy Clothes

Fame

Generosity

Friendliness

Selfishness



Discussion Questions:

- 1) Does everyone have the same external qualities or possessions? How can being thankful for what we have help us not to be envious or jealous of what we do not have?
- 2) Name someone in your life whom you admire – not for what they have, but for who they are on the inside. What is it about this person that you most admire?
- 3) In what way are the good qualities listed above something we *all* can have and share?