

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

Her faith, our journey

What is your price? – Linda Magengenene-Moyake – 3.8.2026

Scripture

Esther 1:1-12

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

The book of Esther is the last of the historical books in the Bible. Chapter 1 provides context for the events surrounding Esther's position as queen.

King Ahasuerus (also known as King Xerxes) threw a party in about 483 BC. At this time, he was planning an invasion of Greece (which took place several years later and which was unsuccessful). He was a powerful king who had inherited his territory from his father Darius. He ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia, covering modern-day Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel, and parts of Egypt, Sudan, Libya and Arabia. Archaeologists have discovered the ruins of the palace where these events took place.

The passage describes 3 royal feasts held at this time. The first one was for all who held a government post. Ahasuerus was proud of his wealth and position, and he showed them all the riches of his kingdom. This feast lasted for 180 days! The second feast was for all the citizens of his capital city, Susa, and lasted for 7 days. This was a common practice for kings of the time to show their subjects how wealthy, powerful, majestic and generous they were. It was also a common practice for guests to drink with each round or to leave the party. But at this 2nd feast the king told his guests they could drink as they pleased. The third feast was one Queen Vashti held for the women of the palace.

During the second feast, when everyone had drunk a great deal of wine, Jewish tradition holds that the men argued about which country had the most beautiful women. The king

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decided to settle the matter by putting his beautiful wife on display. Whilst not stated, it is implied that the queen would be displayed in an immodest way. But Vasti was a courageous woman who valued her dignity, and she refused. This made the king very angry.

Note: It may be that the ladies answer some questions and the men answer others.

Icebreaker:

Have you ever had to stand up against authority?
Why did you feel it was important for you to do so?
What happened?
How do you feel about the situation now?

Application

- What do you do, at this stage of your life, when faced with pressure to comply with someone in authority in a situation which you know is wrong?
How do you handle such a situation?
- *Self-respect is more important than gaining the approval of others:*
 - *Ladies:* What sort of situations would you refuse to be part of, even though 'everyone else is doing it' and the man in your life (father, husband, boss) seemed to expect you to join in? Some refusals in these situations may lead to dismissal or family problems. What would make you cross the line? What is your price?
 - *Men:* Do you expect the ladies in your life to comply with your wishes or are you happy for them to set their own standards? Is it important for you to 'keep up with the Joneses'? Why/why not?
- *Walking alone with your head held high is more important than pleasing others:*
 - *Ladies:* Are you willing to go against the crowd to keep your self-respect and your dignity? How may this be an issue for you? Are you facing such choices today? How will you resolve them and still be able to hold your head high?
 - *Men:* What is your natural instinct in situations where women are belittled in any way? Do you join the crowd, or do you stand up for such women? In the workplace, in the family, how do you handle such situations?

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- *Moral victory is more important than social loss:*
 - *Ladies:* What advice would you give young women or girls who find themselves in a situation that complies with society, but means they lose their self-respect and dignity? How could you help them? Does the situation change if advising them to resist such behaviour reflects on you as a woman? How can you help one another?
 - *Men:* How could you support and encourage young women or girls who find themselves in such a situation? Would it take courage for you to do so? How important is your own reputation to you? What would it take for you to stand against the crowd?
- What is your price?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

Pray for one another regarding the issues raised during your discussion time, and for any other needs of the group.

Service

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/esther-1/>



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