



2/16/26

*This week reminds me of raising my girls on Veggie Tales... Esther: The Girls Who Became Queen. Who could ever forget the original Veggie Tales? Who could forget the deep meaningful song, "Where is my hairbrush?" Or, "I love my lips"? And let us never forget the tag line of every episode, "God made you special, and He loves you very much."*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Esther 1*

*So... I've already looked ahead to Esther 4 to see that Esther was called "for such a time as this." But how did she get there? What was God's plan? What can I learn from this story that never once mentions His name? Does it matter that His name is not mentioned? Does the absence of His name mean the absence of Him? No. Not at all. I think of 2 passages that help me see God's ever present involvement...*

*The first is in Psalm 139:7-10 which says, "Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me." God is ALWAYS involved. God is ALWAYS there. God is always there for my good.*

*The second is in Hosea 11:1-3, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my Son (prophecy of Jesus). The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them." God is involved even when I don't know it, even when my heart is rebellious. He is always calling me to Himself, even healing me. This is exactly what I'm going to see Him do in the book of Esther.*

*Esther 1 ~ The setup that led to the rescue...*

*It was the days when Ahasuerus reigned as king over 127 provinces in Persia. He had been*

*reigning 3 years when he gave a feast for all his governing officials and servants. This feast lasted SIX MONTHS!!! It was all to show off. He flaunted his glory and wealth and greatness. (I would say that it's the mercy and patience of God that kept him alive when in the midst of so much arrogance.)*

*When that 6 month feast was over, he still had more to show off. So he threw another 7 day feast for the people who lived in the capitol, Susa. He threw the feast in the courtyard of the palace garden. This was basically a keg party. The king literally commanded that everyone drink with no restrictions. Have as much as they wanted. Eat, drink, and be merry... without limit.*

*At the same time the king was holding a feast, his wife, Queen Vashti, was holding a feast for the women of the palace. Everyone was partying.*

*I don't know if being under the influence contributed to the king's request, or the queen's response, but... Since he liked to show things off, the king decided to show his queen off. In his merry, inebriated state, King Ahasuerus called his inebriated wife to put on her crown and come show off how gorgeous she was. She refused. Not sure why. But she did.*

*The king's merry heart immediately turned to a furious heart. How dare she dismiss him like that!!! Think of how bad it made him look! The king went straight to his wise men, who were also very drunk at the time... "What should be done about this queen who has ignored the king's command???"*

*One of the officials answered, "This is way worse than breaking the law of the king. Just think of the example she just set for the ALL women of the land! This atrocity is against ALL the officials and the people in the provinces of the land. Now ALL the women will look at their own husbands with contempt! You need to sign a law that says Queen Vashti can never even see your face again. Strip her title and give it to someone else. Then the women will honor their husbands."*

*The king thought it was a good idea. So he signed the decree and sent it out. Wow. Stripped of her crown for saying no... once.*

*What are some observations I can make?*

*First, God is able to work His plan even through evil people. God does not condone evil, and He does not cause evil, but He is able to work good in spite of evil. I know from reading ahead that God is going to use this evil, arrogant king's self absorption to place a Jewish woman on the throne in order to rescue His people from annihilation. If the king had been devoted to the Lord, none of this would have occurred the way it did. But God allows sin in the world right now, and He in all His sovereign power is able to carry out His plan even if evil people thrive.*

*In Matthew 13, Jesus told a parable about allowing the wheat and the chaff to remain together for the time being, understanding that the day would come when the chaff will be*

*separated and destroyed. But wait until that time comes so that the wheat is not rooted up with the chaff. God is at work, protecting the wheat in the midst of the chaff. He does not call evil good, but until He separates out the chaff, He is able to work good even through evil people.*

*Second, God's view of submission for wives is NOT the same as the view of this pagan king and his men. I believe this mindset of controlling women with fear is a way Satan likes to twist God's holy plan of submission. What does God really say about women and submission? He says in 1 Peter 3:7, right after speaking of wives submitting to their own husbands, that husbands are to show their wives honor since they are heirs together with them of the grace of life so that their prayers aren't hindered. That's WAY different than what the king of Persia and his officials were doing. God also says in Ephesians 5, right after telling wives to submit to their husbands, that husbands are to love their wives with a nourishing, cherishing, self sacrificing love that models the love of Jesus. That is also WAY different than this decree given by the Persian king. God's plan is about mutual loving relationship. The king's plan was about control. I'll stick with God's plan.*

*Finally, this is the beginning of the story. Never think I've got the whole picture until God gives the final word. This chapter of Esther was going to lead to many situations along the way that laid the groundwork for God to do a mighty rescuing work for His people. But they weren't looking at the story in hindsight. It was all before them. I need to always leave room for what God wants to do. Trust that He's got a plan, His plan is good, and He has the power to work His plan.*

*As I move forward this week, Lord, please help me to have the same resolve that Esther came to... I will obey God's plan, recognizing that it's far bigger than anything I can comprehend, and I will not worry about the cost. Whatever it is, it's worth it. Let me never forget that with the Lord, all His plans are steadfast love and faithfulness (Psalm 25:10).*