



### **Grace and Favor**

Esther 1:1-2:18 (pg. 410)

Don't be impressed with earthly power or wisdom, but trust the God who is sovereign over kings and nations.

#### **1. A king enraged (1:1-12)**

#### **2. A crisis managed (1:13-22)**

#### **3. A queen crowned (2:1-18)**

## **Sermon Study Guide**

(Reminder: The purpose of the questions is to explore the text and themes of the sermon. **Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions.**

The goal is to stimulate discussion/reflection and transformation related to the sermon text and themes.)

1. What evidences of grace have you seen since we last met?
2. What stuck out to you from the sermon Sunday?
3. How does the author of Esther use literary devices such as contrast between characters, or ironic reversal, to teach us something about God's providence? For instance, how is Vashti described (1:11) compared to Esther (2:17), or how does Ahasuerus' leadership compare with Mordecai's? Can you spot the ironic difference between the feast described in 1:9 and the feast in 2:18?
4. The experiences of Vashti and Esther in chapters 1-2 are very centered on their physical beauty, and the power of the king to control their destinies. What does God's Word teach us about the true value of every human being and the proper use of power? Start with Genesis 1:27, 1 Peter 3:4, and Luke 22:25-26.
5. What has the Holy Spirit convicted you of in this sermon?
6. How were you encouraged by this passage?