



Esther 1

An Empire

1. Picture the feast described in our passage. How is it possible to have a feast that lasts 180 days? What must have been the implications on the empire? According to vs. 8, what seemed to be happening in the final 7 days of the feast?

2. Contrast this Empire with the Kingdom of God and discuss the following characteristics:

- a. Display- How did Xerxes display His power? How is Jesus different (Phil. 2:6-7)?
- b. Demanding- How was Xerxes demanding of others? How is Jesus different (Matt. 11:29)?
- c. Demeaning- How was Xerxes demeaning of his wife? How is Jesus different (2 Cor. 8:9)?
- d. Dysfunctional- How was Xerxes' kingdom dysfunctional? How is Jesus' kingdom different (Rom. 11:33-34)?

3. It's easy to judge Xerxes, but how does our pride affect us? How can we emulate the humility of Christ in our surroundings?

Application

Take some time to pray for God's protection from the effects of our world system. Pray through 1 John 2:15-17.