



## Esther #1: Summoned to Start

August 3 & 4, 2024

Esther 1; Isaiah 46:8-13

### Opener:

If you could have any behind-the-scenes job at a royal event, what would it be and why?

### Go Deeper:

1. **Divine Sovereignty:** Despite God's name not being mentioned in the entire book, where can we see hints of His influence in the events of this chapter?
2. **Character Study:** Analyze Queen Vashti's refusal from a cultural and personal standpoint. What might her defiance signify in the context of the story and its themes?
3. **Behind the Scenes:** How might the dismissal of Queen Vashti be viewed as a part of God's plan? Are there parallels in this narrative to other biblical stories where God works through unlikely circumstances?
4. **Foreshadowing:** How does Esther 1 prepare the reader for the unfolding of God's plan? What elements of foreshadowing are present?

## Live It:

1. **Recognizing God's Hand:** Reflect on a situation in your life that seemed ordinary or even chaotic at the time, but later you could see how it was part of a larger plan.
2. **Trust in Trials:** Considering the opposition Esther's people faced, how can we find strength and trust in God during our own trials, especially when His presence isn't immediately apparent?
3. **Opportunity in Opposition:** Can you identify a recent obstacle that could be seen as an opportunity for growth or a new direction? How can you approach such challenges with faith?
4. **Divine Summons:** In what ways might you be currently experiencing a "divine summons"? How can you respond to this call with courage and faith?



### GOD TIME:

#### Daily Bible Readings (August 4-10)

Sun:	Luke 11:2-4	The Lord's Prayer
Mon:	Exodus 3:13-18	God's Name
Tues:	Exodus 20:1-7	God's Holiness
Wed:	Acts 3:1-10	Healed in Jesus' Name
Thurs:	Acts 19:11-20	The Use of Jesus' Name
Fri:	Acts 14:8-18	Mistaken for gods
Sat:	Phil. 2:5-11	At the Name of Jesus

\*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.

