

What's Your Decision? Option One or Two?

Esther 1:1-22

1. Embrace Earthly Values: Wealth, Power, Appearance vs. 1-11

King Xerxes the king of Persia was driven by wealth, possession, power, and the right appearance others had on him. He was willing to use any means to acquire those values; including controlling others around him so that he could get what he wanted. As a result, he would host extravagant banquets and was even willing to dishonour his wife so that he may satisfy those earthly values.

When the earthly values drive one's life, our life becomes meaningless (Ecclesiastes 2:4-11), as it will cause us to have no room for God. (Matthew 6:24; 19:16-22; Mark 8:36)

2. Embrace The Core Principle: No Compromising Our Beliefs vs. 12-22

Although Vashti would face consequences for standing her ground, she chose to not compromise her belief's when her husband asked her to satisfy his selfish ways.

Like Vashti, people today will face other people who will misuse their authority, or influence. We are to stand firm and not compromise our relationship with God (James 4:1-17), and we will lead not like the world, but lead as Jesus modelled; servant leadership (Matthew 20:25-28; Mark 10:10:35-45; Luke 22:24-30)

Questions:

- How would you respond to a situation where you were asked to do something against your personal convictions?
- A. W. Tozer said, "Our choices reveal the kind of person we are, but there is another side to the coin. We may, by our choices, also determine what kind of person we will be come." What do our choices in life say about us? What do they communicate in regard to what is the most important to you?
- What steps can we take to make sure our life does not become meaningless, but continues to enjoy life with God at the centre?
- What qualities should a person possess for them to be considered a great leader?