



Esther

Beauty and the Beast
Esther 1:1-2:18

Rutland Street Church

1. The Emperor struts his stuff

1 This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush: 2 At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,

1 O ona po o Asueru, o Asueru lea o lē na fai ma tupu e gata mai i Initia e o'ō atu i Aitiope, i itū mālō e tasi le selau e lua sefulu ma le fitu; 2 o ona po ia, 'ina o nofo le tupu o Asueru i le nofoāli'i o lona mālō, sa i ai Susana le maota.

1. The Emperor struts his stuff

3 and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials.

The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present.

3 O le tolu o tausaga o lana nofoa'iga na ia fai ai le tausamiga ma ali'i uma 'ua 'iā te ia ma ana 'au'auna; o ē 'ua sili o Peresia ma Metai, o ali'i ma ali'i o itū mālō, na i ona luma;

1. The Emperor struts his stuff

4 For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty.

4 'ina o fa'aaliatua le sosia o lona mālō mamalu ma le silisili o le matagofie o lona maluali'i, i aso e tele, o aso e selau ma le valu Sefulu.

1. The Emperor struts his stuff

5 When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king's palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest who were in the citadel of Susa.

5 'Ua 'ato'atoa ia aso, 'ona fai ai lea e le tupu o le tausamiga ma tagata uma na i Susana le maota, o ali'i 'atoa ma tagata nu'u, i aso e fitu, i le lotoā o le fanua o le maota o le tupu.

1. The Emperor struts his stuff

6 The garden had hangings of white and blue linen, fastened with cords of white linen and purple material to silver rings on marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and other costly stones.

6 Na tautau ai 'ie lino sinasina; o 'ie lelei ma 'ie uli, na fa'amauina i maea vavae ma le pāuli i mama ario ma pou sesa; na i ai moega auro ma ario i luga o le paepae o paata, ma sesa, ma tara ma sokere.

1. The Emperor struts his stuff

7 Wine was served in goblets of gold, each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king's liberality. 8 By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink with no restrictions, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished.

7 Na avatu ipu auro latou te feinu ai, o ipu e tino 'ese'ese, ma uaina a le tupu e tele, e pei 'ona tatau i le tupu. 8 Na fa'atatau fo'i i le tulafono 'ona inu; 'ua leai sē na fa'atauānau atu i se tasi; auā sa fa'apea 'ona poloa'i e le tupu i ē pule uma i lona 'āiga, 'ia ta'itasi le tagata ma lana faitalia.

2. The Emperor takes a hit

9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

10 On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas

9 O Vasati fo'i le masiofo, na ia faia le tausamiga ma fafine i le fale o le tupu, o le fale lea o le tupu o Asueru.

10 O le aso e fitu 'ina o fiafia le loto o le tupu i le uaina, na ia fai atu ai 'iā Meumanu ma Piseta, ma Harepona, ma Pigeta, ma Avageta, o Setara ma Karekase,

2. The Emperor takes a hit

11 to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at.

o eunuka ia e to'afitu ē na 'au'auna atu i luma o le tupu o Asueru, 11 'ia 'aumi le masiofo o Vasati i luma o le tupu ma le paleali'i o le masiofo, 'ina 'ia fa'aali atu lona lālelei i le nu'u ma ali'i; auā e lālelei lava o ia.

2. The Emperor takes a hit

12 But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

12 'Ae le'i mafai le masiofo o Vasati 'ona alu ane i le fe'au a le tupu na o atu ai eunuka; 'ona matua ita ai lea o le tupu, na tupu tele lava le tigā o lona loto.

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3. The Emperor flips his lid

13 Since it was customary for the king to consult experts in matters of law and justice, he spoke with the wise men who understood the times

13 'Ona fai atu lea o le tupu i ē popoto, ē na iloa tausaga; (auā na fa'apea le masani a le tupu 'iā te i latou uma na iloa tulafono ma fa'amasinoga;

3. The Emperor flips his lid

14 and were closest to the king—Karshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memukan, the seven nobles of Persia and Media who had special access to the king and were highest in the kingdom.

14 na latalata ane 'iā te ia o Karesena, o Setaru, o Atematu, o Tasesa, o Merese, o Maresena, o Memukana, o ali'i ia e to'afitu o Peresia ma Metai o ē na iloa fofoga o le tupu, ē na sili i le mālō;)

3. The Emperor flips his lid

15 “According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?” he asked. “She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes that the eunuchs have taken to her.”

15 “Se a se mea e faia i le masiofo o Vasati e tusa ma le tulafono, ‘ina ‘ua lē mafai o ia i le ‘upu a le tupu o Asueru na ō atu ai eunuka?”

3. The Emperor flips his lid

16 Then Memukan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, “Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes.

16 ‘Ona tali mai lea o Memukana i luma o le tupu ma ali’i, “E lē na o le tupu ‘ua agafa‘api‘opi‘o i ai le masiofo o Vasati ‘ae ‘atoa ma ali’i uma ma tagata uma o i itū mālō uma o le tupu o Asueru;

3. The Emperor flips his lid

17 For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, 'King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.'

17 auā e o'ō atu le tala i le masiofo i fafine uma 'ona 'inosia ai lea e i latou o a latou tane, pe a latou ta'u ane, 'Na poloa'i atu le tupu o Asueru 'ia 'aumi i ona luma le masiofo o Vasati 'ae le'i alu ane o ia.'

3. The Emperor flips his lid

18 This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

18 O tama'ita'i fo'i o Peresia ma Metai ē 'ua fa'alogo i le tala i le masiofo, e fai atu ai i latou i le aso nei i ali'i uma 'ua i le tupu, 'ona tele ai lea o le 'ino'ino ma le feitaga'i.

3. The Emperor flips his lid

19 “Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.

19 ‘Āfai e lelei i le tupu, ‘ia o’o atu lana afioga mai ‘iā te ia lava, ma ‘ia tusia fa’atasi ma tulafono a Peresia ma Metai, e lē toe talaina, ‘aua le toe o’o mai o Vasati i luma o le tupu o Asueru; a ‘ia fai se masiofo a le tupu e sui ai o ia, o se tasi e sili ‘ona lelei ‘iā te ia.

3. The Emperor flips his lid

20 Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest."

21 The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memukan proposed.

20 A logo atu fo'i le pule a le tupu, na te faia i lona mālō uma, auā 'ua tele lea, ona fa'aaloalo ai lea o fafine uma 'iā latou tane, o ali'i 'atoa ma tagatanu'u." 21 'Ua lelei fo'i lenā 'upu i le manatu o le tupu ma ali'i; 'ona faia lea e le tupu e pei 'ona fai atu ai Memukana.

3. The Emperor flips his lid

22 He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language, proclaiming that every man should be ruler over his own household, using his native tongue.

22 'Ua ia avatu tusi i itū mālō uma o le tupu, 'ua fa'atatau ma le tusilima a lea itū mālō ma lea itū mālō, e tusa fo'i ma le gagana a lea nu'u ma lea nu'u, 'ina 'ia ta'ito'atasi le tane ma pule i lona 'āiga ma 'ia tautala i le gagana a lona nu'u.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

1 Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. 2 Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.

1 'Ua mavae ia mea, 'ua mā'ona fo'i le ita o le tupu o Asueru, 'ona manatua lea e ia o Vasati ma le mea na ia faia, i le ma le tulafono na faia 'iā te ia. 2 'Ona fai atu ai lea o 'au'auna, ē na 'au'auna i le tupu, "Ia sālī'ili mai ma le tupu o teine taupou lālelei.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

3 Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them.

3 'Ia tofia fo'i e le tupu o matai i itū mālō uma o lona mālō, latou te fa'apotopotoina teine taupou lālelei uma i Susana le maota, i le fale o fafine, 'iā Hege le eunuka a le tupu, o lē tausi i fafine ma 'ia avatua 'iā te i latou mea e fa'amamāina a'i i latou.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

4 Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.” This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it.

5 Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish,

4 O le teine fo’i e fiafia i ai le tupu ‘ia ‘avea o ia ma masiofo e sui a’i Vasati.” ‘Ua lelei lea ‘upu i le manatu o le tupu, ‘ona ia faia lea fa’apea.

5 ‘Ua i ai i Susana le maota o le tasi tagata o sa lutā, o Moretekai lona igoa, o le atali’i o lairo, o le atali’i ia o Semi, o le atali’i ia o Kiso, o lo sa Peniaminā.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

6 who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah.

6 'Ua tāfea mai o ia mai Ierusalemā fa'atasi ma le tāfeaga na tāfea fa'atasi ma Iekonia le tupu o Iuta, o lē na tāfea e Nepukanesa le tupu o Papelonia.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

7 'Ua fai o ia ma tamā o Hatesa, o Eseta fo'i lea, o le afafine o le uso o lona tamā, 'ina 'ua leai sona tamā po o sona tinā; o le teine fo'i 'ua lālelei lona tino ma 'ua lālelei ona mata. 'Ua oti lona tamā ma lona tinā, 'ona 'avea ai lea o ia e Moretekai e fai mōna afafine.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

8 When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem.

8 'Ua lagona e ia le 'upu a le tupu ma lana tulafono, ma 'ua fa'apotopotoina ai teine e to'atele i Susana le maota 'iā Hege, 'ona 'avea ai lea o Eseta i le fale o le tupu 'iā Hege, lē tausi i fafine.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

9 She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem.

9 'Ua lelei le teine i lona manatu, 'ua alofaina o ia e ia; 'ona ia vave tu'uina atu ai lea 'iā te ia ana mea e fa'amamāina a'i, 'atoa ma mea na tofia māna, ma teine e to'afitu ē na filifilia mai le 'āiga o le tupu e tu'uina atu 'iā te ia; 'ua ia tu'u atu fo'i 'iā te ia ma lona galu teine i le mea sili i le fale o fafine.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

10 Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. 11 Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.

10 E le'i fa'ailoa atu e Eseta lona nu'u po o lona 'āiga auā na fai atu e Moretekai 'iā te ia 'aua na te fa'ailoa atu. 11 O lea aso ma lea aso fo'i na fealualua'i ai o Moretekai i luma o le lotoā o le fale o fafine 'ina 'ia iloa po o mālōlō Eseta; pe se a fo'i se mea e faia 'iā te ia.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

12 Before a young woman's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics.

12 Na āua'i 'ona solo ta'ito'atasi o teine i lo latou o atu i le tupu o Asueru 'ina 'ua 'ato'atoa masina e sefulu ma le lua, e tusa ma le tulafono i fafine; auā na fa'aapea 'ona 'ato'atoa ai o aso o le fa'amamāina o i latou; o masina e ono e u'u ai i le suāu'u muro ma masina e ono i mea manogi ma mea e fa'amamāina a'i fafine.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

13 And this is how she would go to the king: Anything she wanted was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

13 'Ua fa'apea fo'i 'ona alu atu o le teine i le tupu; na avatua 'iā te ia mea uma na ia fai atu ai e alu ai ma ia mai le fale o fafine i le fale o le tupu.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

14 In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem to the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name.

14 O le afiafi na alu atu ai o ia, o le taeao fo'i na toe fo'i ai i le lua o fale o fafine 'iā Sasekasa le eunuka a le tupu, o le leoleo i palake; na ia le toe alu atu i le tupu, vaganā 'ona fiafia o le tupu 'iā te ia, ma 'ua vala'auina lona igoa.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

15 When the turn came for Esther (the young woman Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

15 'Ua o'ō fo'i 'iā Eseta le afafine o Aviaila le uso o le tamā o Moretekai, o lē na faia o ia mōna afafine, 'ona alu atu i le tupu, e le'i fai atu ai o ia i se mea 'ua na o mea na fai atu ai Hege le eunuka a le tupu, o le tausi fafine. 'Ua alofagia fo'i Eseta e i latou uma ē na iloa o ia.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

16 She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

16 'Ua 'avea Eseta i le tupu o Asueru i le fale o le tupu i le sefulu o masina, o le masina lea o Tapeta, i le fitu o tausaga o lana nofoa'iga.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

17 'Ua sili fo'i le mana'o o le tupu 'iā Eseta i fafine uma, 'ua sili fo'i 'ona alofaina ma fa'apelepeleina o ia e ia i taupou uma; 'ona ia tu'u atu ai lea o le paleali'i i lona ulu ma fai o ia ma masiofo e sui a'i Vasati.

4. The Emperor recovers himself

18 And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

18 'Ona faia lea e le tupu o le tausamiga tele ma ali'i uma 'ua 'iā te ia ma ana 'au'auna, "O le tausamiga 'ona o Eseta;" na ia tu'uina atu ia mālōlō tagata o itū mālō, na ia foa'i atu fo'i mea alofa e pei 'ona tataua i le tupu.

5. Lessons from the chapter

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(a) A lesson about the nature of Earthly power

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(b) A lesson about the qualities of true leadership

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- (a) A lesson about the nature of Earthly power
- (b) A lesson about the qualities of true leadership
- (c) A lesson about the struggle of living well as God's people in a godless society