

IMAGINE A CHURCH ON MISSION

March 15, 2009

I. CONDITION: SHADOW MISSIONS

THE STORY:

Esther 1:11 (NIV) 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.

Esther 1:12 (NIV) ¹² But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come.

Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

Esther 1:20 (NIV) 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."

Esther 2:12 (NIV) ¹² Before a girl'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.

1. THE ASK

Esther 4:12-14 (NIV) ¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family

will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

enabled – transformed – empowered - faithfully live and communicate His heart in our community and throughout the world.

2. THE ABANDONMENT

Esther 4:14 "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:16a (NIV) ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do.

3. ACTION.

Esther 4:16b (NIV) When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

II. RESPONSE: MISSION COMMITMENT

James 1:27 (NIV) ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

- **What can I _____?**
- **What can I _____?**
- **What can I _____?**