

Read Esther 2:10-16

**10** Esther had not told anyone of her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had told her not to.

**11** Every day Mordecai would take a walk near the courtyard of the harem to find out about Esther and see what was happening to her.

**12** Before each young woman was taken to see the king, so he could decide who the next Queen would be, she was given the prescribed twelve months of beauty treatments—six months with oil of myrrh, followed by six months with special perfumes and ointments.

**13** When it was time for her to go to the king's palace, she was given her choice of whatever clothing or jewelry she wanted to take from the harem.

**14** That evening she was taken to see the king, and they got married and the next morning she was brought to the second harem, where the king's wives lived. There she would be under the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch in charge of the king's wives. She would never go to see the king again unless he had especially liked her and requested her by name.

**15** When it was Esther's turn to go see the king, she accepted the advice of Hegai, the eunuch in charge of the harem. She asked for nothing except what he suggested, and she was admired by everyone who saw her.

**16** Esther was taken to see King Xerxes at the royal palace in early winter of the seventh year of his reign.

**What did Esther not tell anyone (v. 10)?** That she was Jewish. **Why not?** Mordecai told her not to. **What do you think Mordecai was afraid of?**

**What did Mordecai do when Esther was in the fortress (v. 11)?** He walked by the courtyard every day where Esther was living to see how she was doing. Kinda like spying or eavesdropping.

**What did all the women have to do before they went to see the king (v. 12)?** They had to get beauty treatments for a whole year.

**When it was time for Esther to see the King what could she do (v. 13)?** She could really dress up and wear whatever clothes and jewelry she wanted to.

**After she went and saw the King, where did she go the next day (v. 14)?** She went back to a different harem, where the king's wives lived. She was now one of the King's wives. But she wasn't the Queen yet.

**When would Esther see the King next?** Only when the King asked for her to come back which he would do if he really liked her.

**What did the people think about Esther (v. 15)?** She had become extremely popular. Everyone admired her and respected her. **Why do you think that was? After all, she was a Jew living among Gentiles.**