

Read Esther 5:1-8

**1** On the third day of the fast, Esther put on her royal robes and entered the inner court of the palace, just across from the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne, facing the entrance.

**2** When he saw Queen Esther standing there in the inner court, he welcomed her and held out the gold staff to her. So Esther approached and touched the end of the gold staff.

**3** Then the king asked her, "What do you want, Queen Esther? What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!"

**4** And Esther replied, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to a banquet I have prepared for the king."

**5** The king turned to his attendants and said, "Tell Haman to come quickly to a banquet, as Esther has requested." So the king and Haman went to Esther's banquet.

**6** And while they were drinking wine, the king said to Esther, "Now tell me what you really want. What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!" **7** Esther replied, "This is my request and deepest wish.

**8** If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request and do what I ask, please come with Haman tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for you. Then I will explain what this is all about."

**After she had been fasting for three days, what did Esther do (v. 1)?** She went into the palace to see the King. **Do you think she was scared?**

**What did the King do when he saw Esther standing at the door (v. 2)?** He was happy to see her and invited her to come into the room. He still loved Esther.

**When she touched the end of the golden staff, what did the King ask her (v. 3)?** What do you want?

**What did he promise her?** He was willing to give her half of his kingdom. Wow, that's a lot to offer! He must really love Esther!

**What did Esther say to the King (v. 4)?** All she wanted was for the King and Haman to come to a banquet that night that she was preparing. **What did the King do (v. 5)?** He went to the banquet and told Haman to come with him.

**When the King and Haman went to Esther's banquet, what did the King say to her (v. 6)?** I know you had a reason for inviting us here tonight. What is it? Again he promised to give Esther half of his kingdom.

**How did Esther answer the King (v. 8)?** I would just like you and Haman to come to another banquet I am preparing tomorrow night. **She could have asked the King for half his kingdom and she would have been rich. What does that tell us about Esther?**