

VASHTI



# READ

- You can read about Vashti in Esther 1 or listen [here](#).
- In Modern Persian Vashti means beauty / goodness
- In Old Persian it most likely means best / excellent
- Vashti is the first wife of King Ahasuerus.
- When her husband hosts a banquet for the men, Vashti holds a separate one for the women.
- Vashti refuses her husband's order to parade her beauty before the men at the banquet.
- Ahasuerus dismisses Vashti and, after selection period, she is replaced by Esther



Ahasuerus banishes Vashti Marc Chagall  
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# REFLECT

- You might like to read Esther 1 once more and pause at a word or phrase that strikes you.
- Meditate over this word or phrase with God until you come to a point of stillness.
- What do you sense God's invitation to you might be and how do you want to respond?
- As you finish your time of prayer you might like to thank God for the life of Vashti.
- What God has to teach you through the life of Vashti?
- You might like to close your time of prayer by praying the Lord's Prayer.



Ahasuerus banishes Vashti Marc Chagall  
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# RESPOND

- At some point this week you might like to pray practically with the narrative of Vashti.
- You could do this through collage, poetry, bible art journalling, or another creative approach.
- You might like to take a bowl of uncooked rice mixed with pasta shapes.
  - As you sift through the grains and shapes consider what areas of oppression you see in your own context.
  - How might God be calling you to intercede or act in these areas?
  - How would you like God to help you do this?



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VASHTI

Vashti said no.  
No to being objectified.  
No to parading herself  
Before a party of inebriated men  
Reeking of alcohol.

Vashti said no  
On behalf of the many women  
Where marriage is servitude  
When domestic violence is accepted.  
Where women are abused.

Vashti said no  
For all enslaved people  
Without a voice  
Unable to speak  
Silenced.

Vashti says no  
To you and to me  
When we, deliberately or in ignorance,  
Abusing our power  
Commodify humanity.