

PART 1: Does God See What I See?

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START

Faith seems to come so easy for a child. They can believe with the simplest explanations, and their questions can often be humorous. As we get older we become more aware of the pain in life, the grief that is caused by others and our own actions. Our questions of faith become more difficult to answer, and we start to wonder if God is even aware of what is going on?

- What is a funny child prayer or faith question you have heard?
- What are some questions of faith have you wrestled with as you got older?
- If you were to write God a “Dear God” prayer, what would you ask?

READ

[Esther 2:1-2:4](#) (NIV)

“Later when King Xerxes’ fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. Then the king’s personal attendants proposed, “Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king...Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.” This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it.

THINK

King Xerxes was an easily influenced man. When something didn’t go his way he took the advice of the people around him. He was not great at making his own decisions. He makes poor decisions in his anger and frustrations and forces people to do awful things.

- When have you made poor decisions in anger?
- How does our anger judge our decision making?

As Mordecai and Esther are introduced, we find that Esther is an orphan. Mordecai, her cousin, is looking after her. They have been taken from their homeland and are forced to live in a foreign place. Esther is forced to do unthinkable acts, and in those acts the King shows her favor and she becomes queen.

- How does it make you feel how Esther was treated?
- What do you think Esther was thinking and felt as she went through the process of being selected?
- How has God used bad experiences in your life to work?

PRAY

“God, even when it doesn’t seem like you are around, help me know that you are near. Give me assurance that you are continuing to work through the suffering and pain in this world and in my life.

ACT

This week, take a moment to stop and listen to what God is doing around you. Oftentimes we can move so fast that we forget to tune into what God is doing.

[Discover Hope](#) | [Next Step](#) | [Serve](#)



ONE CHURCH. RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.