

Study Guide: *Finding Favor With the King*

Ch. 1- *From Peasant to Princess* 9

What a Difference a Day Makes

- Do you have a "fascination with transformation"? Are you irresistibly interested in rags-to-riches stories and peasant-to-princess sagas? Why?
- On page 14, I note that the Book of Esther reveals "*the way God overcomes human weakness and failure to elevate our position and rank all the way to His throne room.*" Do you feel this could really apply to your life? (Explain your answer, but do *not* change it. Use it as a marker of the heart. The Scriptural revelation in this book will confirm your answer or demonstrate a truth you need to embrace.
- What makes people who do not know Jesus "incompatible with the glory of the King"? How can any of us become compatible with divine royalty?
- Whether you are married or currently single, what went through your mind and heart when you read, "*It costs you something to prepare for the single most significant day of your life*"? Admittedly, some people make their marriage ceremony somewhat of a joke or fast-service formality...could this possibly say something about the depth of their commitment to one another?
- Do you believe *repentance* (pictured in Esther's six-month cleansing in baths of myrrh) is important in the Christian life? Is it a one-time act, or a life-long process of transformation for you?

Ch. 2-*The King or the Kingdom?* 27

The Palace or His Presence?

- Whatever impresses you attracts you, and whatever you pursue becomes your purpose. What impresses you the most? What are you *really* pursuing in this season of your life?
- Think about your church life for a moment: Do you attend church primarily for the social benefits, friends, music, or peace of mind it brings? Or, do you go to celebrate and worship God with your friends, through music, while focused your thoughts and affections on Him? (If honesty forces you to lean toward the first list, understand that those things are not "bad." However, it is better to seek the King first over the benefits of His house.) Journal your thoughts concerning these questions and thinking points.
- "You can find God in some of the most interesting places." Describe an interesting "God place" or divine encounter in your own life or in the life of someone you know.
- "One day of favor can be worth more than a lifetime of labor." How may this principle apply to *your* life?
- Esther realized that without the king, the king's palace was just a big empty house. Imagine "church" without God's presence for a moment, and describe your feelings about investing your time attending meetings in such a place.