Characters

- A cast of characters is listed at the beginning of a play.
- A short description of the characters may be included.
- The playwright may further describe the character when he or she first appears in the play.
- The audience continues to learn about the characters through their actions and through the dialogue.
The Time, Place and Setting of Esther

• Time: 486-465BC During Captivity
• Place: Susa: One of three Capitals
• Setting: The Royal Palace
Cast of Characters in Esther

• Xerxes  King and Monarch of Babylon
  ~ *Absolute power and authority*
  ~ *Quick tempered*
  ~ *Easily led by others*
  ~ *Doesn’t pay attention to details*

Lesson #1: If you are called to lead...lead!
Cast of Characters in Esther

- Vashti:  Deposed Queen of Babylon
  ~A bit player
  ~Woman of principle

Lesson #2: Sometimes we suffer for doing the right thing.
1Peter 3:15-18
1Peter 4:16-19
Cast of Characters in Esther

- Esther: The new Queen raised up by God for His purposes

  ~Two names

  Esther: Myrtle Tree
  Hadassah: Compassion

Lesson #3: We must all choose what kind of man/woman we will be.
Cast of Characters in Esther

- Mordecai Esther’s cousin: A man of integrity and honor
  - Adopted Esther
  - Checked on her every day
  - Reported the conspiracy
  - Refused to bow to Haman
  - Challenged Esther to act

Lesson #4: Take a stand for spiritual truth, even when it is costly.
Cast of Characters in Esther

• Haman: The villain: A noble elevated by Xerxes to a position of honor
  Proud
  Quick tempered
  Cruel and capricious
  Manipulative

Lesson #5: Avoid pride at ALL costs!
Prov 16:18 “Pride goes before a fall!”
Cast of Characters in Esther

- God: Never seen, never mentioned...always present and at work!

Lesson #6: Never discount God’s presence and work in your life, even when you don’t see Him.
Reflections for Today

- Are you leading the way you should?
- Are you willing to suffer to do the right thing?
- Have you made the choice to be a man/woman of God, like Esther.
- Do you need to take a stand for spiritual truth?
- Have you let price creep into your life?

Have you discounted the work of God in your life just because you don’t see it today?