

Kings and Queens

Queen Esther

Esther 4:12-17

Character

- **Introduce yourself as Mordecai**

Where to begin??? Esther 4:12-17

It really was a tragedy how it all came about.

When her mother and father unexpectedly died

I just had to step in.

Raised her as if she were my own.

After all she is family. My cousin to exact.

Her name Esther.

So many gifts and talents

And if I may say she is strikingly beautiful.

How did we end up here in Susa?

modern-day Iran just north of the Persian Gulf.

I found myself in this foreign land

in this city named **Susa** ruled by **King Xerxes**.

We have been taken captive

from our hometown of Jerusalem

by King Nebuchadnezzar and brought to Babylon.

King Xerxes conquered Babylon and now

We're here in the new capital city of Susa.

here with our other Jewish brothers and sisters scattered

throughout all these 127 Persian provinces

from India to Ethiopia.

Rumor has it that King Xerxes wife - **the queen**

did something to make him mad.

I'm told she refused to attend one of his parties.

This infuriated him and he banished her

Banished from the King's Courts.

After some time the search began.
The king conducted a massive search looking for the next queen.
Of course my Esther was chosen to be part.
She went – it's not like she had much of a choice.
When King Xerxes tells you to do something
you pretty much have to do it. Or else.
He can be a ruthless man.

After over a year of preparation she was presented
to the King and he liked her.
She was chosen as the next queen.
It's a tough position to be in really.
In some ways it may seem like a great opportunity
but in others it's not really fair.
My Esther had no choice.

Being young and beautiful and a virgin
she was chosen – or you could say forced
Forced to go and be part of the Kings harem.
Nothing is by choice under Xerxes rule.

After a year of preparation,
she was presented to the King.
He chose her and that's how she became Queen.
Queen Esther – Queen of Persia but a Jew by birth.

One day I overheard two men
outside of the Kings gates talking.
They were plotting to kill the King.
I quickly relayed the story to Esther
She was able to warn the King. Assassination averted

The Kings life was spared and the would be assassins
were found guilty and put to death.

It wasn't until later that the King discovered it was me
Mordecai who foiled the plot.
None the less I was eventually rewarded.

Shortly after that a man by the name of Haman
was promoted by the King to a very high position.
He let it go to his head and required everyone
to bow down to him. There was no way
that I was going to bow down to Haman.

The only one I bow down to is YAHWEH
the one true God.
The God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob.
The God of Moses and the people of Israel.
My people

This enraged Haman and he convinced the King
that we Jews were trouble makers
and should be put to death.
Little did he know that his own wife
My dear Esther – was one of us
a Jewish woman.

We Jews immediately began fasting mourning
and praying for God to spare us.
Oddly enough Esther didn't find out about this
until she sent someone to ask me why I was so upset.
That's when I sent word back to Esther
and told her of the plot.

I told her all that had happened
and what Haman had convinced the King of.
I urgently pleaded with her to go and
speak to the King on our behalf.

The problem was that No one was allowed to approach the King uninvited.

If she did and he didn't extend his golden scepter she would be executed.

No questions asked.

He was technically her husband but he was a vicious and vindictive dictator.

Esther 4:13-17

¹³“Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

¹⁵Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

¹⁷So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

I. God selects and God assigns.

A. Problem was massive.

1. There was a foreign woman in a foreign land.
2. The land was absolutely corrupt.
3. The leaders were corrupt.
4. They were greedy and blood thirsty.
5. Would do anything to get ahead.

B. Esther was now the queen and she gets one chance to save her people.

1. One chance to save herself.
2. She has a limited amount of time to make her move.
3. If she does nothing the edict to annihilate the Jews goes into effect.
4. Her family will be slaughtered and there is a good chance she will too.

C. She can't approach the King without his request.

1. If she does approach the King uninvited there is an automatic death sentence UNLESS the King extends his golden scepter.
2. Either way her life is at risk.
3. Do nothing and her people die and good chance she does.

4. Approach the King and he does not extend his golden scepter and she dies.
D. Do you see the predicament?

God had an assignment for Esther.

Illustration

God has an assignment for you.

- E. Mordecai lays it out for her.

1. Do you trust God has a plan?

Illustration

- To be honestly she has no choice but to be where she is.
- She is forced into this.
- We don't know how much she likes or doesn't like this but she has no choice.
- She has one chance to save her people from destruction but... that chance may in fact cost her her life.

Esther 4:13-14

¹³“Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape.

¹⁴For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

God is going to accomplish his will on the earth the question is will you let him use you?

Psalms 62:5-8

⁵I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him.

⁶He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender,
and I shall never be defeated.

⁷My salvation and honor depend on God;
he is my strong protector; he is my shelter.

⁸Trust in God at all times, my people.

Tell him all your troubles, for he is our refuge.

Psalms 27:4-5

⁴One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
 all the days of my life,
 to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
 and to seek him in his temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble
 he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
 he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
 and set me high upon a rock.

God has call you out of sin and into HIM.
 Behold the Lamb of God.
 He is wonderful
 He is beautiful
 He is glorious

- F. Talk about God's assignments
 1. What are our assignments?
 2. To glorify the Lamb
 3. To gaze upon him.

Illustration

Application

II. God's assignments involve risk.

- A. There she is.
 1. Mordecai poses the question

Esther 14:14

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

- B. She prepares to approach the King.
 1. She calls a 3-day prayer and fasting
 2. She says after this I will approach the king.
 3. If I perish, I perish.

The circumstance is so dire she responded with incredible courage.

Sometimes the mission and calling of God in your life will require VERY LARGE amounts of courage.

C. There is a risk in accomplishing God's assignment.

Illustration

Dr. Jason Hubbard – International Prayer Connect

Part of a global prayer network of 100 million people.

a global prayer network of 5000 plus prayer ministries around the world. IPC vision is to *“Exalt Jesus, catalyzing united prayer for Kingdom transformation of people, cities and nations”*

Last year at during Rammadan

Over 1.8 million people emerged on Mecca seeking a spiritual experience.

There were 1,600 evangelists intermingled within the 1.8 million Muslims.

Many were led to the Lord and were sent back to 21 countries to start house churches.

One year later as a result of that outreach over 1 million followers of Jesus could be accounted for.

IPC consists of 34 leaders of significant regional and international prayer networks and ministries throughout the world. The Council seeks to provide relational, prophetic leadership and connection for International Prayer Connect, a global prayer network of 5000 plus prayer ministries around the world. IPC vision is to

Illustration

The Gospel is exploding right now all over the earth.

There are outreaches in the Gaza strip right now and people are being saved.

Radical terrorist are being saved.

Radical terrorist with bombs vests strapped to their body are being saved.

Since the war in Gaza... One of the house churches in the Gaza strip was exposed and raided.

Two men came in to shut it down.

Many ran for their lives.

The leaders stood to confront the terrorist who came to kill them.

As they stood there they began to share with them the love of Christ.

The two men began to become agitated and took off their jackets and exposed their bomb vest.

The church leaders did not relent in their expressions of love for them.

Overwhelmed with the power of God and love of Christ the two terrorists began to be visibly moved and broke into tears. Weeping under the conviction of the LORD.

They removed their bomb vests and surrendered their life to Christ in the very house they went in to blow up.

God's assignments involve risks.

D. I will risk myself for God's assignments.

Illustration

- How about you?
- What do we have in common with Esther?
- If you stand up for Jesus Christ you run the risk of being cancelled.
- If you lead with "common sense" – you receive backlash.
- There will be people who persecute you.
- There will be people who degrade you.
- It will cost you.

The question you need to ask yourself is
"Are you willing to pay the price?"

Esther 14:14

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Application

- God give us your power!!!
- Baptize us with your Holy Spirit.
- Saturate us.

We need Acts 1:8 to come alive

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

III. God always rewards faithful obedience.

A. Back to the story Summary

Esther 5

1. Esther puts on her royal robe and approaches the King
2. He extends his golden scepter
3. King ask what she wanted – you can have up to ½ of the Kingdom.
4. “If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”
5. At the banquet the King ask her again what she wanted.
6. Esther replied – come back tomorrow to another banquet and I’ll tell you.
7. Haman left and saw Mordecai at the gate and Mordecai did not show any honor.
8. Haman goes home MAD
9. He goes home and brags to his wife and family how he was the only one invited to a banquet besides the King.
10. But he can’t be satisfied when “that Jew Mordecai” sitting at the King’s gate.
11. Wife and friend says – We’ve got an idea get you a 75 foot pole and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it.

Esther 6

1. That night the King could not sleep so he ordered the book that keeps a record of his reign to be brought in and read to him.
2. They got to the part that said Mordecai had stopped the plot to assassinate him.
3. King asks – what was done for Mordecai to show appreciation to him?
4. Nothing
5. About that time Haman walks in to talk to the King about impaling Mordecai
6. So the King asks Haman what should be done for a man “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?”
7. Now Haman thought to himself, “Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?”
8. Have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. ⁹ Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king’s most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, ‘This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!’”
9. Great Idea Haman – go get Mordecai and do exactly as you have suggested.
10. Later back to the queens second banquet.

Esther 7

1. King and Haman and Queen Esther at banquet.
2. What is it that you want Esther?
3. Spare my people ⁴ For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated.

4. King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?”
5. This vile Haman!”
6. King storms out.
7. Haman starts begging the queen for mercy.
8. King walks back in as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was and thinks He is bustin a move on the Queen.
9. The King’s men jump on Haman and they take Haman out and impale Haman on the pole that Haman had set up for Mordecai

Esther 8-10

1. The edict to kill the Jews was reversed.
2. Esther was given the estate of Haman.
3. Mordecai was given a big shot job in the palace

Esther 10:3

Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.

Purim

- Every year about 1 month before Passover
- A Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from annihilation at the hands of an official of the Achaemenid Empire named Haman.

Psalm 128:1

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
who walk in obedience to him.

A. God gives grace for every act of obedience.

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- I. **God selects and God assigns.**
- II. **God’s assignments involve risk.**
- III. **God always rewards faithful obedience.**