

Esther Part 4: Big Trouble

Back to the story of Esther...

Esther 3:15

The king and Haman sat back and had a drink while the city of Susa reeled from the news.

Last week, we ended the story of Esther with King Xerxes and Haman sitting on the porch, drinking some wine coolers and not caring that the Kingdom was in peril. Specifically, the Jewish people, they were in some major danger. Why? Because Haman convinced the King to make a law to kill all the Jews because he hated them.

Esther 4:1-2

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. ² But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it.

Mordecai was in trouble and so were all the Jews. This is looking pretty bad right now. The king's orders were final, and the conflict is escalating big time! When Mordecai heard what would happen, he put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. I mean, let's be real, you don't see many people in school wearing a skirt made of goats hair and covered in ashes like they just rolled around in dirt.

However back in this time this was a symbol to everyone around that Mordecai was in sorrow and grief. He didn't have Facebook to post a status or Instagram to post a picture all he had was a sackcloth and dirt.

We can understand why Mordecai did this! He was sad and sorrowful that his life and his people's lives were in trouble. However, I also think Mordecai wasn't dumb. I think he knew what he was doing, this dude played it smart.

Esther 4:4-8

Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her. The queen was stunned. She sent fresh clothes to Mordecai so he could take off his sackcloth, but he wouldn't accept them. Esther called for Hathach, one of the royal eunuchs whom the king had assigned to wait on her and told him to go to Mordecai and get the full story of what was happening.

So Hathach went to Mordecai in the town square in front of the King's Gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He also told him the exact amount of money that Haman had promised to deposit in the royal bank to finance the massacre of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the bulletin that had been posted in Susa ordering the massacre so he could show it to Esther when he reported back with instructions to go to the king and intercede and plead with him for her people.

See what I mean about Mordecai? I think the dude knew how to get the attention of his cousin the Queen! She sent him some clothes to calm him down and relax him and she sent a trusted servant to go talk to him to see what was going down.

Mordecai laid it all out for her, every detail of everything that was happening. The Jewish people were going to die including Mordecai... So, he asked her to speak to the King!

Esther literally started having a panic attack. You want me to what? You want me to go to the King? I don't believe that I can do that. She literally has a meltdown and says: "Everyone who works for the king here, and even the people out in the provinces, knows that there is a single fate for every man or woman who approaches the king without being invited: death. The one exception is if the king extends his gold scepter; then he or she may live. And it's been thirty days now since I've been invited to come to the king."

Before you go nuts thinking that Esther is a coward. Remember what has happen to this girl! She was hand-picked by the King to be the next Queen of Persia! Why? Because the other Queen simply said NO! So, imagine how scary this is. Esther was a little hesitant, but that didn't mean she was a coward. She had questions.

All Mordecai says to her is this:

Esther 2:13-14

"Don't think that just because you live in the king's house you're the one Jew who will get out of this alive. If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

"Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this..." What a powerful statement. Mordecai was saying to her, no excuses, no easy way out. Now is the time. This is your time now.

This was probably the most powerful pep talk or huddle talk anyone ever had! What if this was you?

What Will Your Story Be?

How would you tell your story if you knew this verse was about you?

"Who knows, but maybe you have come to this place for such a time as this!"

If you were to look at your current life situation and apply that thinking to it, how would it change your thinking? What would you do differently? How would you treat your family, your friends, your boss, your teachers, your co-workers and more?

You have come to this place for such a time as this. God's planning is never random; His purpose for you and your life were set in place before you were born. We're reminded in **Ephesians 1:4**, "*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*"

God created you for such a time as this, and He has a plan for you. If you know what His plan is for your life, celebrate it and share it with others.

Everyone has a defining moment in their lives... what will you do with yours?

Have you faced a defining moment in your life yet?

We have to make a decision for Jesus. Will you accept him or not? That's a turning point. We have to make a decision to obey him.

- Will I cheat on this test or not?
- Will I date a non-Christian or not?
- Will I have sex with my boyfriend/girlfriend or not?
- Will I let everyone know that I am a Christian or not?

Defining moments will have consequences for your life.

Right or wrong, no matter what you choose there will be an outcome of the decisions you make!

Defining moments will tell you who is with you and who is not.

A defining moment will act as a filter in your life. It will speak to those around you and they can either join you or let you go.

Defining moments will define your character.

The choice you make will define to others who you are. Will show the definition of your heart and who you are.

Mordecai's pep talk did the trick! It convinces Esther to do what she needs to do. Esther asked all the Jewish people to pray and fast, she understood the power of prayer. She also understood the power of the moment! What could happen if the king did not want her.

After 3 days of fasting and praying she finalized her plan. She is going to talk to the king. She is going to approach him even though it's against the law! She would take a stand; she would help her people even though it may cost her life.

1. To speak to the king, Esther has to break the law for which the penalty was death.
2. To make her appeal to the king, Esther has to confess that she has deceived the king by not telling him she was a Jew.
3. Esther must attempt to convince the king to reverse an irreversible law, as laws were in the Persian Empire.
4. Esther must oppose Haman, the most powerful person on earth at that moment in time besides the king.
5. Esther must pursue a plan which will strike a serious blow to the king's pride — not a smart thing to do to a proud and petty king.

Esther 5:1.

Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.

We see here that she puts on her royal robes. Can you imagine the agony she undergoes beforehand: choosing just the right dress, shoes, perfume, and hairstyle for this occasion? I mean this is a life or death outfit! You better dress to kill or be killed!

As she is dressing, she is probably thinking, “This may be the last time I wear these robes. This may be the last time I walk these halls.”

This is probably the scariest moment in Esther’s life. Sometimes walking from one room to another can be scarier than going over sea’s.

I am sure her life went in slow motion. She does not know whether she will live or die. And at this point neither do we. But the story does not make us wait long for the answer.

Esther 5:2

So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

We can breathe a sigh of relief here! She lives! The first part of the mission is accomplished. The king sees her standing in the court, and he is pleased with her. He is probably pleased with both her beauty and her boldness, so he extends his golden scepter to spare her life.

This is the pivot point in the story. The threat of death has evaporated.

Esther was like Obi Wan Kenobi in Star Wars: He was the rebel’s only hope.

“Esther was the Jews’ only hope. No other Jew had access to the king like she did. Now that Esther lived in going before the king, there was also hope for the deliverance of the Jew.

Esther 5:4

So Esther answered, “If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him.

She knows it would be rude to ask for what she wants right out, so she invites the king and Haman to a meal. She operates within proper protocol and etiquette.

And the king is no dummy here. He knows that this meal is not the real reason Esther risked her life to come before him. He knows that there is more to this than her getting bored and wanting to show off her culinary arts to her husband. She has some other, more important request to make.

Esther 5:5. Then the king said, “Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said.”

So, the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Esther’s risked her life for a defining moment and God honored her for it!

Are you willing to take the risk? To do the right thing.