

ESTHER

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Esther chapter 3 as we continue our study through the Word of God. In our study last time we saw King Ahasuerus have this huge party and as the wine was flowing he asked his wife, the Queen to come and dance before them, to display herself before him and his guests, probably wearing only the royal crown. And Queen Vashti refused to do that and she was removed as the Queen.

After about 4 years of being without a Queen his servants said that they should look for a replacement and they had what you might call a beauty pageant and the King was the one who would pick the winner. After a year of preparation and searching, King Ahasuerus picked Esther, a young Jewish girl, although he did not know she was Jewish, to be his wife and Queen!

Esther had lost her parents, they had died when she was young and her cousin Mordecai raised her. And after this beauty pageant we see that Mordecai has a position at the gate of the city, a place of honor, this is where the business was done. And while sitting at the gate of the city he overhears an assassination plot against the King and he tells Queen Esther who then informs her husband and the plan is foiled. And in Esther 2:23 we read of this as we are told, **“And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.”**

Now what is interesting to me is that Mordecai does not get rewarded for saving the Kings life and you may think that is unfair. You may think that God should have honored him for what he had done. Well, as we will see in this book of Esther that God has a plan, He has the perfect timing for Mordecai to be rewarded for what he did for the King. With that said, let's begin reading in Esther chapter 3, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

ESTHER

VERSE 1

1. Here we are introduced to Haman, who is promoted to be second in command in the kingdom. And as we will see, Haman is not a good man, in fact he is evil. Haman is a descendant of King Agag, who was an Amalekite. And if you remember the story, King Saul was to completely wipe out the Amalekites because of how they treated the children of Israel when they left Egypt. They would attack the back of the pack where the old, the sick, the weak were, and because of that God said he would wipe them out. But King Saul did not completely wipe them out but allowed King Agag to live. And it was an Amalekite who killed King Saul and now we see that one of the descendants of Agag is going to threaten the destruction of all the Jews.

2. I believe what we are seeing here is a spiritual principle that we can apply to our own lives. Let me explain. In Scripture the Amalekites are a type of the flesh. Because of that they must be completely wiped out, they must be destroyed or they will destroy you. They will rise up and destroy your life. The same is true of our flesh, we must destroy it, put it to death, for in it no good dwells. As Christians we need to deal with the flesh on a daily basis and give no room for it to grow. As Paul said in Galatians 5:17, **“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”** Do you see the battle that is going on and if you play with the flesh, it will bring you down. So then how do we deal with the flesh? Well Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16, **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”** Also, in Galatians 5:24-25 Paul tells us, **“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”**

In other words, don’t entertain the flesh, don’t feed the flesh, don’t play with the flesh, but crucify the flesh nature with its passions and desires that want to control your life. Yes God will help us but we must take the action and place that flesh nature on the cross to be crucified, we must be willing to give it to the Lord. And here, as Paul tells us to **“walk in the Spirit”** the word he uses for **“walk”** means “to keep in step with the Spirit” or be in tune to the Spirit’s leading, guiding. Follow Him, walk with Him, it should be the practice of our life and if you do you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh!

VERSES 2-4

1. As you read this it seems that Haman was a man who was not well liked and because of that the King makes a decree that the people were to pay homage to him. If he deserved it, the people would have been more than happy to give it to him, but I don't think he deserved it.

2. Now Mordecai refuses to bow before him, why? First of all the idea here is more than just paying homage or respect to Haman, because the Jews did that before, (I Samuel 24:8). But the Hebrew verbs in this passage usually describe the worship of God and I believe that was one of the main reasons that Mordecai did not bow the knee to this man because he knew that only God is to be worshiped!

Also, God had cursed the Amalekites and he was not going to bow to a cursed people. In Exodus 17:14 we are told, **“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.’”**

3. As you read verses 3 and 4 here in Esther chapter 3 you have to come to the conclusion that Mordecai must have been liked. We see that the Kings servants want him to bow before Haman so he would not be harmed. And this was not just a one time thing, but daily they were trying to encourage Mordecai to bow his knee before Haman so that he does not get punished. What is the response by Mordecai to these men? He tells them that he is a Jew. What does that mean? It means that God alone is to be worshiped and he was not going to bow his knee to a cursed people, from which Haman was a descendant!

VERSES 5-6

1. Pride is a terrible thing and we see that here. We don't know how long before Haman realized that Mordecai was not bowing the knee, but the light did go on and he was furious with Mordecai! You see, all were bowing before Haman except for one man, and this is all Haman can see. He is so fixated on this one man and he is so mad, he is so angry that he wants more than just Mordecai dead, he wants all the Jews dead. As one man said, "When little men cast long shadows, it is a sign that the sun is setting!" Haman is going to find out how quickly that is going to happen!

2. Now look back over the history of this world and see what happened to the people, the nations that have tried to destroy the Jews. Things did not work out so well in the end. You see, what happens is they are only preparing for their funeral as they try to destroy the Jews. Hitler tried to do it and he came close but look at Hitler and his group today, he is gone and they are gone but the Jews live on and are flourishing back in Jerusalem just as God said. God has promised to take care of His people and He has. The fact that the Jews are still around today attest to that fact! It truly is a miracle, they should not be around, but God has indeed preserved them! We will see that in the book of Esther and in these last days that we are living in, when the world will turn against Israel, when the Antichrist tries to destroy the Jewish people, they will be saved, they will remain and the Antichrist will be gone along with those that try to destroy the Jews! Don't mess with God's people!

VERSE 7

1. Haman wants to find out the best time to carry out his plan to kill the Jews so he goes to the astrologers, the wise men, and they cast lots, or Pur, and it falls on the 12th month, which corresponds to our March. That means that there is an 11 month period of time before the Jews are destroyed. That is interesting to me because in Proverbs 16:33 we are told, **“The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.”** The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“The lot is cast into the lap, but the decision is wholly of the Lord [even the events that seem accidental are really ordered by Him].”** In other words, this timeframe was ordained by God and God is going to use that to save His people. Did He need that much time to do it? Obviously not, but He is not only working against Haman, but He is working in the hearts and minds of Mordecai and Esther also, as well as the King!
2. Now that he has the date picked out, he will bring his request to the King. Listen to what he tells King Ahasuerus.

VERSES 8-9

1. Yes the Jews had different laws, but they were not rebelling against the King. Haman was telling half-truths, which is nothing more than a lie. And the reality is, he did not even mention what people he wanted to destroy yet. And Haman is so upset with Mordecai and the Jews that he was willing to pay for the Jews to be wiped out. And some of that money would go into the Kings treasuries, which I think helped to seal the deal, for the kingdom was financially hurt from the wars they fought and lost, and this money was almost more than what was taken in annually in the kingdom, which was 15,000 talents of silver, and Haman was offering 10,000 talents of silver for the Jews to be exterminated. (According to the Greek historian Herodotus (Book III, Section 95) the annual income of the entire Persian Empire was 15,000 talents of silver). In other words, the King would not have to pay for this, it would not cost him anything and in the end, he would get money and precious things from the people that were exterminated. It seemed like a good deal, how would the King react? Let's read on and see.

VERSES 10-11

1. King Ahasuerus did not seem to care about the people, which was common for rulers of that day. And thus, he gives his signet ring to Haman to carry out his evil plan. Keep in mind that the signet ring represented the King's authority, and he was saying to Haman, go and do what you need to do, I have given you my permission to do it.

Now is it possible that the King did not know it was an entire group of people that Haman wanted to exterminate? It is possible, he might have thought it was just a group of dangerous rebels that were rising up to take over his kingdom and thus, saw this as a good thing to wipe them out before they could carry out their plan. He did not know it was the Jews nor did he know that his wife and Queen, Esther was a Jew! But he will find out and initially do nothing.

VERSES 12-15

1. Well, if the King didn't know that Haman wanted the Jews wiped out before, he knew now and went along with this evil, this wicked plan! The decrees were issued and sent throughout this vast kingdom that on the 13th day of the 12th month, all the Jews were to be destroyed and their wealth plundered. Now keep in mind that the Persian Empire stretched from modern day Greece in the west, to India in the east, from southern Russia to the north and Saudi Arabia in the south. It covered more than 600,000 square miles! Also, there were 127 provinces and probably 127 different languages and dialects that this decree needed to be translated into so the people could read it. So the 11 months were truly needed to get the word out.

2. Keep in mind that once a decree was signed into law in the Persian Empire, it could not be changed, it was irrevocable. And thus, the death sentence for the Jews was signed and it was going throughout this massive kingdom and it truly seemed like a hopeless situation for the Jews. When you think about it there was no way out. And yet we know the end of the story or if you don't, you will see what happens in the next few weeks.

3. Now, in saying that, next time you find yourself in a difficult situation, a situation that seems hopeless, remember this story and the words of Paul in Romans 8:28. He said **“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”**

Now when you read this verse here in Romans 8:28 please note that it does not say that, “And we see . . .” We don't always see what God is doing. It is not always clear and thus, Paul does not say that. Also, Paul does not say, “And we feel . . .” Some just want to feel good, have that emotional experience that everything is okay, but Paul does not say that. He says, **“And we know . . .”** You see, this is not based in our human understandings or subjective feelings it is totally based in knowledge. What kind of knowledge? In the knowledge of God Himself! You see, I may not understand the good that will come out of the situation, but I believe it by faith, I know it intuitively!

Listen to this illustration and I think you will see what I mean. You see our life, from our perspective, may seem to be going nowhere, it is a mess, but God has a plan, He has a purpose and all things are working together for good! Donald Grey Barnhouse tells us in his commentary on Romans:

In his Bible an elderly minister carried a bookmark that was made of silk threads woven into a motto. The back of it was a tangled web of crossed threads that seemed to be without reason or purpose. When he called in some home where there was great trouble, sorrow or death, he would frequently show this bookmark, presenting the reverse side with all its unintelligible tangle. When the bereaved one had examined it intently, without finding any explanation for the seeming disorder, the minister would ask him to turn the marker over. Immediately, against the white silk background there was the phrase, in colored threads, "God is love." That side made sense. It is thus with all of the tangled patterns of life for the one who has been called according to the divine plan. When we know this fact we can be at peace with the world around us because we are at peace within our own souls; and we are at peace within our own souls because we are at peace with our Heavenly Father.

- Donald Grey Barnhouse, Romans: Expositions of Bible Doctrines

The bottom line is this. As you understand this, if everything is working out for our good, then nothing can work for our ultimate bad or condemnation. What does that mean? It means we are eternally secure in Christ! God is for us and thus, there is no one who can truly be against us and win. God has a plan, He has a purpose for our lives and just as we are going to see with Queen Esther, she was born for such a time as this!

4. One more point here and that is the confusion among the people regarding this decree or death sentence. Many of the people knew Jews, they were friends with them, they worked with them and they could not understand why this decree for their extermination was set forth. The reality is, the enemy doesn't care if you understand it or not, he will find enough people who will follow through with it and those that may not understand it, will even ignore what is happening as long as it doesn't affect them!

Let me share this true story with you and you will see how people can ignore, drown out the screams of people around them. Just listen to what some church people did or didn't do as Nazism grew and Jews were being taken to this death, these murder camps. This is an eyewitness account from one person. We are told,

I lived in Germany during the Nazi Holocaust. I considered myself a Christian. We heard stories of what was happening to the Jews, but we tried to distance ourselves from it, because, what could anyone do to stop it?

A railroad track ran behind our small church and each Sunday Morning we could hear the whistle in the distance and then the wheels coming over the tracks. We became disturbed when we heard the cries coming from the train as it passed by. We realized that it was carrying Jews like cattle in the cars!

Week after week the whistle would blow. We dreaded to hear the sound of those wheels because we knew that we would hear the cries of the Jews en route to a death camp. Their screams tormented us.

We knew the time the train was coming and when we heard the whistle blow we began singing hymns. By the time the train came past our church we were singing at the top of our voices. If we heard the screams, we sang more loudly and soon we heard them no more.

Years have passed and no one talks about it anymore. But I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. God forgive me; forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians yet did nothing to intervene.

- Erin Lutzer, *When a Nation Forgets God*, pp. 21-22

I can understand how the world can tune out, ignore the screams of people that are being slaughtered, but I can't understand the ignoring by Christians when this is happening. May we learn the lesson, may we stand up for those that are in need, those that are being slaughtered either physically or spiritually because both carry with it a death sentence! Again, I believe we are born for such a time as this and like Esther; we are going to need to take a stand and step forward!

ESTHER 4**VERSES 1-3**

1. It was not time to keep silent but to let his feelings be known about this decree or death sentence that has been placed upon him and his Jewish brethren. And this outward showing of his feelings will also get to the attention of the Queen, who really did not have a lot of contact with the outside world. You see, Mordecai knew that once a decree was established, it could not be changed or ignored, it had to be carried through, and not even the King could change it. Also, notice that he does not go groveling at the feet of Haman to try to stop this somehow, someday. You don't grovel before the enemy; you bring it before the Lord!

2. It has been said, "All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing!" The things we see happening in our communities, in our nation, in the world, should not cause us to do nothing or to hide ourselves, or even grovel at the feet of the enemy, but it should cause us to fall on our knees and ask God to intervene, to see lives changed. Remember what Jehoshaphat prayed as the Moabites and Ammonites were threatening him and his Kingdom in II Chronicles 20:12, "**O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.**"

Where were their eyes focused upon? Not the situation but upon the Lord! I like the way that Spurgeon saw this situation that they were in and where their eyes were focused. He wrote, “They said, ‘Our eyes are upon thee.’ What did they mean by that? They meant, ‘Lord, if help does come, it must come from thee. We are looking to thee for it. It cannot come from anywhere else, so we look to thee. But we believe it will come, men will not look for that which they know will not come. We feel sure it will come, but we do not know how, so we are looking; we do not know when, but we are looking. We do not know what thou wouldest have us to do, but as the servant looks to her mistress, so are we looking to thee, Lord. Lord, we are looking.’” May we have that perspective in life, no matter what we are going through!

And truly think about this for a minute. If you place your eyes upon people, guess what, you will be disappointed! If you place your eyes upon the situation you are facing, the circumstances you find yourself in, you, like Peter will begin to sink! Folk’s, we need to place our eyes upon God and when we do we will be stable, He will see us through all that life has thrown our way! It is as Jehoshaphat said, “**. . . For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.**”

Selman had this to say regarding what Jehoshaphat said, “The final phrase, *We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you*, is one of the most touching expressions of trust in God to be found anywhere in the Bible.” Again, I agree with what he has said. May our eyes be upon the Lord and as they are, we can rest in Him instead of being fearful of what is happening around us! That is what Mordecai is doing here, looking to the Lord for help in this situation that is hopeless from a human perspective, but all things are possible with God!

3. Now why do we see Mordecai not go before the King with his concerns regarding this situation? Mordecai could not go before the King mourning over this situation because the King was not interested in the people’s feelings. He was only concerned about himself, and he only wanted to see good things. He needed more money and this was an easy way to get it and it would not cost him anything because Haman is paying for the extermination of the Jews!

4. And please understand that this decree was serious, it was not just empty words. This decree carried with it a death sentence for all the Jews and it could not be rescinded as I have said. They recognized that fact and it drove them to their knees, crying out to God for help. They rightly recognized that they could not stop these things from transpiring without God’s help. That truly is a great place to be even though we may not like it. Why is that? Because it places our faith in God and not our own resources or strength and it is the place that our faith grows!

VERSES 4-7

1. Esther is unaware of what has transpired and she only hears that her cousin, Mordecai is in sackcloth and ashes and maybe she is embarrassed by his dress. So she has beautiful clothes brought to him but Mordecai was not interested in new clothes, but that is what Esther sends him. She does not even know what the problem is; she is unaware of this decree as I have said. As Christians may we be sensitive to the needs of others and not just giving them a pat on the back. Listen to their concerns, their problems and ask God to give you wisdom in what you need to do in that situation.

2. What is interesting today is that in the church we try to cover up people's sin, we don't want to expose it or have it seen in the church. And thus, what happens is we don't speak of sin, that man is a guilty sinner before God. We don't tell them that the wages of sin is death. We just want them to look nice.

Dr. Shaler Matthews from the University of Chicago's School of Religion came up with this definition of sin many years ago. He said, "Sin is the backward pull of an outward good." Now you need to think about that for a minute. You see, what he is saying is that sin is good, that there is good in sin. And isn't that exactly what religion is teaching us, dress this way and you are fine, you are good and yet the Bible says that we must be clothed in the righteousness of Christ by faith because our sin has separated us from God and our righteousness is like filthy rags!

Mordecai would not cover up this terrible sin that was coming against them and thus, he sent the clothes back to Esther the Queen! And keep in mind that Esther can't go directly to Mordecai, so she sends one of her servants to find out why Mordecai is lamenting, and wearing sackcloth and Mordecai sends him back with why he is wearing sackcloth and ashes!

VERSES 8-12

1. Mordecai wants to make sure that Esther is totally aware of what is going to happen, and to make sure she doesn't think that this is just a misunderstanding he not only tells Hathach all that is going on but he also sends a copy of this decree to her so that she could read it for herself! And Mordecai wants Esther to let the King know what Haman has done.

2. What I find interesting here is that Esther is isolated within the walls of her palace, totally unaware of what is happening around her, in the world. Many people, Christians, do the same thing. They isolate themselves in monasteries and convents so that they might purify themselves and connect with God. But in trying to do that by isolating themselves they have disconnected themselves from the rest of the world.

We also see Christians that hide themselves within the walls of the church, never wanting to hear or see what is happening to people. Again, in doing that they are walking through life with blinders on, with their head in the sand, never knowing what is going on around them.

And there are those that want to hear nothing about the apostasy that is going on in the church, it is not affecting them, or so they think, and thus, they want nothing to do with it. We need to be aware so we can minister to people. We need to be aware of what is happening around us. You are not to bury your head in the sand!

3. Now as Esther hears what is happening she sends word back to Mordecai that there is not much she can do about this situation! Her hands are tied. “Thanks cousin for the news, but what can I do? I feel sorry for you and the rest of the Jews, good luck!” Now we don’t read those words here, but that is basically what she is saying, she does not want to put her life on the line for this cause because she is the Queen and safe within these walls or so she thinks.

You see, for Esther the Queen there is this problem. The King has not requested to see her for 30 days now and if she just presents herself before the King, without being called, she could be put to death. He may be gracious and hold out his scepter and spare her life, but that is not guaranteed. And why take a chance when the King has not called for her these 30 days, it doesn’t sound like he wants to see her.

4. So word gets back to Mordecai what Esther is feeling, what she will do or won’t do and let’s read on and see how Mordecai is going to respond to what Esther has said.

VERSE 13-14

1. Notice that Mordecai is not wishy-washy in his response to Esther. Some today don't want to rock the boat baby, they don't want to tip the boat over, you might say! But not Mordecai, he just tells it like it is.

And Mordecai sends words back to Esther and he makes 3 very important points regarding what Esther has said to him. First of all he let's Esther know that if she does nothing, she too will perish when this decree is carried out, for she was a Jew. She could not hide behind her position, for *ALL* Jews were to be put to death! By ignoring the situation, it was not going to make it go away or protect her!

The second point that Mordecai makes to Esther is this. If Esther refuses to step in and try to stop this evil plan from being carried out, then God will raise up someone else to deliver His people. God was not interested in her excuses for not taking that step of faith, but rather will she take that step or will she refuse to take that step of faith. I believe Mordecai knew from the Scriptures that somehow, some way, God would spare His people.

Remember what God said to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3, **“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”** You see, God did not force Abraham to take those steps of faith, but told him what needed to be done and what God would do for him and then he needed to walk!

In II Chronicles 16:9 we are told, **“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.”**

In this story we see King Asa in trouble. Baasha King of Israel was coming against them and instead of crying out to the Lord, he cries out to Ben-Hadad the King from Syria for help. And we don't have to guess what God thinks of what Asa did because we see here that God rebukes Asa through the prophet Hanani for his actions, for his unfaithfulness to the Lord. You see, it doesn't matter if the plan worked or not, he put his trust in man, an unbeliever rather than the Lord. And Hanani reminds Asa that when the Ethiopians came upon him, that he turned to the Lord for help. He did not place his faith in the arm of flesh. Paul tells us in Romans 13:14, **“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”** If you give the flesh room to grow, like a weed, it will take advantage of the opportunity. If you fill yourself with the Lord, stay focused on Him, you will not give the flesh room to grow! You will see the salvation that the Lord will bring to a situation if you are willing to walk in obedience to Him instead of coming up with your own plan! You see, God is looking for faithfulness to those who are loyal to Him so that He can work through and all we must do is walk by faith and not by sight. We must learn to trust in Him each and every day for each and every situation that we face!

For Esther, if she refused to take that step of faith, as frightening as it may be, God will use someone else to work through and deliver His people.

And the third point is this. Esther's entire life may have been directed so that she may fulfill this one task and save the Jews from destruction. Her entire life was prepared for this moment, and yet it is her choice in what she will do. Remember what Paul said in Philippians 2:13, "**for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**" In other words, if God has called you to do something for Him, He will work in your or equip you for the task and He will give you the strength to do it if you will only walk in faith!

And in Proverbs 24:11-12 we read, "**Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, 'Surely we did not know this,' Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?**"

In other words, don't ignore the things that God is showing you to do, step forward and do them! I think Spurgeon nailed it when he said, "You have been wishing for another position where you could do something for Jesus: do not wish anything of the kind, but serve him where you are." Or as the Nike commercial says, "Just Do It!"

2. Let me just make this last point. If you know what needs to be done, and yet you refuse to step in, God says that is a sin. James says in James 4:17 regarding this point **“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”** God wants you to take those steps of faith, not because you are so great or so talented, or so smart, but because God is and He will strengthen you for the work He has called you to do. Or if you refuse, you will be put on the shelf and God will work through someone else. God wants to use you just as He wanted to use Esther, but if you don’t step forward, you miss out and God will use someone else to save His people!

Let’s put this in perspective. J. Vernon McGee said this regarding these verses here in Esther chapter 4.

We begin to see God by His providence moving now in the affairs of the nation. It is obvious that Esther did not accidentally win a beauty contest. She was not accidentally the one who became queen. She is there for a very definite purpose, and God has been arranging this all the time. He is prepared for this event. God knows what is coming. That is why, friends, we can trust Him. When we put our hand in His hand, He has the power to hold us. He knows what is going to happen tomorrow and next month and next year. He will care for us. All we have to do is trust Him.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible Vol. II, p. 564

Did you catch that? “All we have to do is trust in Him.” May we do that, may we walk by faith for who knows if we were born for such a time as this! And folk’s, I believe we have been born for such a time as this!

VERSES 15-17

1. Make no mistake about it; we all come to crossroads in our life, just as Esther did. As she hears what Mordecai had to say she is now willing to take that step of faith, but before she does, she has all the Jews in Shushan, all her maids, fasting. Now some commentators disagree with me on this and say that Esther did not pray, she did not bring this before the Lord, but I disagree. I truly believe that prayer also is involved, and prayer to God. She was willing to risk all to take that step of faith, trusting in God to spare her life and her people. She committed her life to God and basically said, “All of me or none of me!” It is as Job said, **“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him . . .”** Job 13:15. You see, when you have that perspective, nothing will stop you from completing the task that God has for you.

In other words, what we see Esther saying and what should be the passion of our heart is this. “If I perish, I perish. If I go down, I go down. If it’s such a time for this that I exist, I’m going to go for it.” You see, what are you afraid of? Are you afraid that someone won’t like you? Are you afraid that someone might make fun of you? What are you afraid of? Esther got her priorities and her perspective right, if God is for us who can truly be against us! And folk’s, they are going to make fun of us anyway. They won’t like us no matter what we do. So don’t negate the work because friendship with the world is enmity with God, so let’s serve Him wholeheartedly no matter the cost for, **“. . . Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”** Esther 4:14.