

Doing the Right Thing

Esther 4

Purpose: To recognize the situations in which God has placed you to do His will, and respond with faithful action.

Personal Reflection: Reflect on an instance in your life where obeying God's call meant taking a risk or facing difficult consequences. If others were involved, how did they react to your decision to obey God?

1. What is the sequence of events that leads to Esther's decision?
2. What does Mordecai and the Jews willingness to mourn publicly suggest about their adherence to Jewish practices, even in exile?
3. Chapters 1-3 are characterized by royal banquets and Haman's triumphant ascent. How does the self-denial and communal mourning of the Jewish people in verse 3 present a counter-narrative to the prevailing values and practices previously described?
4. What internal conflict might Esther be wrestling with as she explains the risk ("death") of approaching the king without an invitation? (vv. 9-11)
5. Recall a time when God's call on your life demanded a significant risk. What was your immediate response, and how did you feel when you recognized that calling?
6. Mordecai's arguments in verses 12-14 are incredibly potent and strategically designed to overcome Esther's fear and reluctance. How does Mordecai dismantle Esther's initial excuses, leaving her with no honorable alternative but to go to the king?
7. Even though God's name isn't mentioned, where do you observe evidence of a divine hand guiding events, combined with the choices and actions of Mordecai and Esther?
8. If you were to describe Esther's character based solely on this chapter, what kind of person do you see her becoming as she grapples with the immense responsibility placed upon her?
9. In light of Esther's story, where is God challenging you to step out of your comfort zone to fulfill His purposes, and what 'perish' moments might you face? Does knowing God, His way and His word equip you to better face the challenge?

Considering Esther's transformation in this chapter, what qualities would you need to embody to move from apprehension to action in your own *'for such a time as this'* moment?

What to pray for: Ask God for the courage to be obedient in the current circumstances in your life.