

Remnant Life Church
May 25, 2021
Esther
Pt 7
“A Woman of Distinction”

As we have made our way through the story of Esther, my prayer is that it has and will continue to serve as a source of not only encouragement but inspiration

- Encouragement bolsters your attitude and thinking
 - Inspiration moves you to action
1. Supporters - God put people in her life to support and help her
 - a. It started with Mordecai (2:7)
 - i. Granted she had little or no say in that situation
 - ii. But God saved her from a life of struggle, want, or even worse as an orphaned little girl
 - b. Then in the palace of Xerxes she found favor with Hey-gay-eye (2:9)
 - i. He was the king's eunuch in charge of the harem (2:15)
 - ii. Esther deferred to his judgment regarding what she should wear and how she should prepare herself
 - c. Finally, she found favor in the eyes of the king himself (2:17)
 - i. What better place to put Esther in order to be the most effective than at the foot of the throne?
 - d. God will put people in your path to help, but you must be of a humble heart to receive it
 - i. Ex: my U-turn ticket
 - e. Esther knew, recognized, and embraced the help of others sent by God
 2. Submission – Esther was obedient in the circumstances that called for it
 - a. She did what Mordecai asked and did not reveal her nationality too soon (2:10)
 - b. Again, she submitted herself to Hey-gay-eye for how to prepare herself before going into the king
 - c. She respected the superior wisdom and experience of those around her
 - d. Pride makes you an island to your own thinking, decisions, and desires
 - e. **Prov 15:22** - *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*
 3. Sincerity – she possessed a true heart of love and gratitude
 - a. When Mordecai uncovered the plot against the king, he took the information to Esther (2:22)
 - i. She then took it to the king, but she gave Mordecai the credit (2:22)
 - ii. That was later going to be instrumental in putting Mordecai in a position of honor that would be the catalyst to save the Jews
 - b. She also did not forget Mordecai once she became queen
 - i. When Mordecai heard of the plot to kill all of the Jews he went into mourning (4:1)

- ii. When Esther heard of this, she did not ignore his pain but inquired as to why he felt the way he did (4:4)
 - c. To be successful in the things of God's kingdom and in our lives requires a sincere and grateful heart
- 4. Sacrifice – she was willing to give up everything
 - a. Esther took great risk upon herself in her efforts to save her people
 - b. To approach the king unsummoned was to invite the death penalty (4:11)
 - i. It was, however, the only option to gain the king's attention
 - ii. She was willing to do that but only after she had prepared herself in the presence of God through prayer and fasting
 - c. What are you willing to sacrifice or risk in order for you to see God's will accomplished in your life or the lives of your family?
- 5. Strategy – she incorporated wisdom and planning
 - a. Esther did not rush in emotionally accusing Haman of this great crime
 - b. This was not a frenetic plea for help
 - c. Instead, she planned a double-banquet for the king and Haman (5:4,8)
 - i. Why two?
 - ii. The Bible does not specify
 - 1. Perhaps for the king to be assured that this was not some wild tale
 - 2. Or to bring Haman into a false sense of security
 - 3. Whatever the reason it was a brilliant tactic and worked perfectly
 - iii. God directs, leads, and guides, but we are still to use the gift of our minds in His service
- 6. Service – Esther used her position and influence to help others
 - a. Her actions demonstrated that she understood the responsibilities her position carried
 - b. It was not to live in selfish luxury, but to be an instrument of God who put her there
 - c. One of the reasons that she did this was that she had been trained well
 - i. How do we know this?
 - ii. Because Mordecai, when he was elevated to his place of authority, did the same thing

If you are asking how you can experience the same type of blessing and favor that Esther did, search your life and see where you are in these 6 areas

- Do you have those people in your life to help because you are humble enough to accept help?
- Are you willing to submit yourself to the wisdom, experience, and authority of others?
- Are you sincere in your love and concern for others?
- Are you willing to sacrifice of yourself for the good of others?
- Do you act in wisdom and with planning or do you act impulsively?
- Is your desire to serve others as a servant of Christ?