

**"Esther's Surrender"**

**Part 2**

**Esther 4-5**

**Introduction:** On Sunday evening we left Esther in the middle a fast. Her and all the Jews in Babylon were fasting at her request. Mordecai had convinced her that she needed to stand in the gap for her people. What she faced was not an easy decision for the king had the power to take her life if he was so minded. Unless you were invited into the presence of the king, you would be taking a great risk by entering the throne room. If you were not invited and the king did not extend the golden scepter, then you could be executed for your uninvited presence. So Esther called for all the Jews to fast three days and on the third day she would go to the king to interceded for her people.

**I. Esther's Resolve**

**Notice Esther 5:1**

Esther was true to her word as she had promised. She told Mordecai she would go before the king on the third day, and she did just that. We really do not understand how much courage was required for Esther to take this step. But she knew she had the opportunity to make a difference, so she made the choice to do what needed to be done.

**Application:**

Let us ask ourselves how true we are to our word. When you say you will pray for someone do you do so? When you say you will help out where help is needed do you stay true to your word? When you make a promise do you keep it? Let us notice the Words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount:

**Matthew 5:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> *Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:*

<sup>34</sup> *But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:*

<sup>35</sup> *Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.*

<sup>36</sup> *Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.*

*<sup>37</sup> But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

Esther stayed true to her promise, and I can only imagine what she went through in those three days. Have you ever been faced with a situation you had to deal with, and you did not want to? It is easier to stay the course if you deal with it quickly but then there are times when it can and should be bathed in prayer. But I do know the longer it is put off the more difficult it is to follow through. If we try to imagine Esther's situation it was extremely difficult. This decree issued by Haman was the front line of a spiritual attack upon the Jews by Satan in an attempt to destroy the Messiah. So when she made the choice to wait three days, I can just imagine the spiritual attacks which she encountered in her mind. Satan had three days to throw everything at her that he had to frighten her away from standing in the gap. I can just imagine that she slept very little at night. Consider what she was facing:

***(1) Esther has to break the law in which the penalty for doing so is death.***

***(2) Esther has to admit that she has been deceiving the king about her ethnic background for five years.***

***(3) Esther has to persuade the proud king to effectively reverse an irreversible law in so doing he will lose a huge amount of promised revenue.***

***(4) Esther has to oppose and overcome one of the most cunning and powerful foes in Persia, and that was Haman.***

***(5) Esther has to lead the king down a path in which he will inevitably lose face.***

I remember a pastor that I knew years ago who was in the middle of a spiritual battle and he felt as though he was all alone, and I will never forget what he said to me. He said, "I wish I could touch my people and they could feel what I am feeling at this moment." This takes my mind back to the night before our Lord was arrested and crucified.

#### **Matthew 26:36-44**

*<sup>36</sup> Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.*

*<sup>37</sup> And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.*

*<sup>38</sup> Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

*<sup>39</sup> And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

*<sup>40</sup> And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*

*<sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

*<sup>42</sup> He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*

*<sup>43</sup> And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.*

*<sup>44</sup> And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.*

**Notice Esther 5:1 again.**

We need to consider for a moment the words "**now it came to pass**". Let us notice the words from the Bible Illustrator:

*"These words call for special notice in a book which strikingly illustrates the providence of God both in regard to nations and individuals. They remind us that there is nothing stationary--that what comes is moving on. Seasons of trial and perplexity would be overwhelming if they had the character of fixedness. It is happily not so. As you have stood gazing on a mountain, bathed in sunlight, you may sometimes have observed a dark shadow creeping along the side of it, as though hastening to accomplish its mission, and quickly gliding away out of sight, leaving the landscape all the more beautiful because of your remembrance of it. So is it with what is painful and sad in providence. Events of this kind have come at intervals, but it was only to pass--not to abide--like the floating of little clouds between us and the sun, and when past, giving to human life, as to nature, a greater richness and variety. Biographies are but commentaries on these familiar words. Indeed, men themselves but come to pass."*

What a wonderful thought. Whatever we face no matter how painful or heavy it has not come to stay but it has come to pass, and it is situations such as Esther faced which God uses to burn away the dross from our lives.

**Notice Esther 5:2**

The courage and conviction we see in Esther here is amazing! She stands in the face of danger for what she believes in. She is not certain what will happen, but she does not back down. Esther is standing up to the most powerful man in the world here because there is a cause. There are thousands and thousands of lives at stake. This is amazing character that we see in this young lady.

**Application:**

This is the way God's people are to live today and there are many opportunities to do so. This is a picture of the example that our children and our grandchildren need to see. They need to see conviction and character within our lives. They need to be taught not to fear but to have faith and courage. We must teach them with our lives to stand up for what they believe in. There is such a need for this kind of conviction today. Today there seems to be little conviction and courage but instead people just do what they are told, and it is as if they do not want to use their own minds to think.

**Notice Esther 5:2 again.**

As we look at this verse, we can clearly see the providence of God in the midst of this setting.

**Proverbs 21:1**

*The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

This is exactly what we are seeing here. God has softened the heart of the king so that Esther would be able to gain entrance into the throne room. He has turned the heart of the king to kindness.

**Application:**

Let us learn from this one verse that when there seems to be no way our God can make a way. He can move people and He can soften even the hardest of hearts.

**Proverbs 16:7**

*<sup>7</sup> When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

Esther's way pleased the Lord for she was walking by faith.

**Hebrews 11:6**

*<sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

When I consider the story of Esther, I am reminded that had she not stepped out as she did, she would have never been privileged to see the hand of God as she did.

I cannot help but wonder how many times believers have missed the hand of God in their lives because they are fearful to step out by faith and stand for their convictions? I think about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and what they were able to experience and see because they stood for their convictions. They trusted God as they faced the furnace of fire. I think of Moses and what he witnessed because he was not afraid to give up the palace life and he stood for his convictions.

**Hebrews 11:24-27**

*<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*

*<sup>25</sup> Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

*<sup>26</sup> Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*

*<sup>27</sup> By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

Moses went on to see the plagues and the deliverance of Israel as well as God's hand in the wilderness wanderings. These are just a couple of examples and from them we clearly see the need to step up when there is an opportunity and stand for our convictions.

**Notice Esther 5:2 again.**

Esther's entrance into the throne room stands in great contrast to what has been provided for us.

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

*<sup>19</sup> Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

*<sup>20</sup> By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

*<sup>21</sup> And having an high priest over the house of God;*

*<sup>22</sup> Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

**Hebrews 4:16**

*<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Esther approached the throne room in fear but that is not so with us who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We are loved and we love our Lord.

**1 John 4:17-19**

*<sup>17</sup> Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

*<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; **but perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

*<sup>19</sup> We love him, because he first loved us.*

**Conclusion:**

Before we close, we need to see the picture in all of this for us. Esther came into the throne room to intercede for her people who were under a death sentence, and they were going to perish. So, we must ask several questions: "Are you interceding for the lost in your family, your school, your small circle? Are you begging God to send revival to America before He once and for all "withdraws His scepter of grace and mercy" so to speak? Esther was willing to risk her life declaring "If I perish, I perish." Are you willing to lose your life, to die to self and to selfish desires, for the sake of the Gospel, which is the power of God to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek?"