

7/13/25

**Sermon: Esther the Courageous – Wk 3 of Favorite Bible Heroes**

**Scripture: Esther (various)**

**Main Message: Esther chose to risk everything for her people, and was rewarded.**

The first thing to know about the book of Esther is that it is not the book of Mordecai. Mordecai basically adopted Esther after her parents died, but it was her character and pivotal role that she played that saved the tribe of Judah during the reign of King Xerxes.

Let me set this up a bit for you. King Xerxes was not the antagonist in the story. It was a man named Haman. He was committed to destroying all the Jews throughout the kingdom of which Xerxes reigned. He was particularly bent on destroying Mordecai because he wouldn't bow down to him. Esther was chosen out of a bunch of virgin women to be presented to the King as a replacement for his current wife which was "difficult". It turns out that Esther was chosen by the King and for good reason. This is a small book of the Bible and even the last chapter only had 3 verses. I recommend you read it to get your own sense of Esther's qualities. Lets take a look at them.

Beauty, Grace, and Poise – Read Esther 2:10 – 23. Mordecai was wise in his counsel to tell Esther to not reveal her nationality. That would only come at a future time after her position was solidified.

Commitment and Courage – Read 4:11-17. Fasting and Prayer is always a powerful spiritual influence demonstrating the heart and the need for Divine intervention.

Wisdom and Strategic Thinking – Esther outsmarted Haman through humility and careful planning. She didn't rush it, nor did she delay it. You need to read the whole book to get the sense of how she handled this. Haman's chest was all puffed out because the Queen was going to have a banquet for him and the King. Read Chapter 5.

Clearly Haman had JDS. Jewish Derangement Syndrome. Even when everything else was going so well in his own mind, he was undone not by Mordecai, but of the strategic acts of Esther.

Read pieces of chapter 6 and chapter 7.

Haman was impaled on the same pole which he had proposed would be for Mordecai.

Esther by divine purpose saved the Jewish people... yet again in their long history, by a set of circumstance and the acts of a courageous woman. It's a great story. It a lesson in character and that true beauty is on the inside as well.