

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
KINDERGARTEN
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 47

Esther: Part 1



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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective The goal of this lesson is to explore Esther's courageous choice and encourage the students to be courageous in sharing the Gospel.

Key Verses

Esther 3-4—Main Teaching Passage

Esther 1-2 (Background)

Matthew 28:18-20

Memory Verse - Psalm 36:5 (August Memory Verse)

"Your mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens;
Your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds."

Hook

Draw some pictures on the board of common things people are afraid of (the dark, spiders, snakes, heights, thunderstorms, etc.) and ask the students if they are afraid of these things. What would motivate them to face these fears?

Today, one of our Bible characters will have to face one of the greatest fears people face: the fear of death. Let's see how she responds.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Because we are moving quickly through Esther, we will begin our story by introducing the students to queen Esther, a young Jewish woman, married to King Ahasuerus, ruler of the Persian Empire. The king chose Esther to be queen out of all the women in the land, but he did not know that she was a Jew. One of the rulers under Ahasuerus was a wicked man named Haman. One day, Esther's cousin Mordecai did not bow to Haman when he passed by. This made Haman so angry that he decided he would destroy not only Mordecai, but all of the Jewish people. He went to Ahasuerus and tricked him into signing a law that would allow people all over the Persian Empire to destroy the Jewish people.

When Mordecai heard this news, he was devastated. All over the empire, Jews wept at this decree. Esther heard that Mordecai was upset, so she called him to see what was wrong. Mordecai told her what had happened and urged her to go ask the king to change this law. However, there was a problem with this plan: anyone who went before the king without his permission could be put to death unless he held out his scepter. It had been thirty days since she had last seen him and he was unlikely to call for her anytime soon. Mordecai told her that if she did not act, the Jews would be saved, but her family would be destroyed. She would not escape this destruction if she remained silent. At that, Esther determined to go and face the king, even if that meant death.

LOOK

The Bible never promises that doing the right thing would be easy. There are all kinds of obstacles they may make it hard for us to obey and follow God. The person who seeks to follow the Lord could lose friendships, face bodily harm, be criticized, miss out on something, lose money or status, or face pressure from other people. There are all kinds of things that make it hard to follow the Lord. However, sometimes the risk of obedience is even greater than that. Esther is an example of someone who faced the highest possible risk for doing the right thing: the loss of her own life.

Esther was put in a position where she had to choose between the easy choice and the courageous, right choice. She could have attempted to save herself, and perhaps she might have escaped the destruction. After all, no one except Mordecai knew she was Jewish. But Mordecai told her that she could not be silent, that God would not allow her to escape the consequences if she did not act. On the other chance, doing the right thing meant risking everything. But Esther knew that her life meant nothing if she did not obey God and stand up for her people. She had to make the courageous choice.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

Mordecai's speech in 4:14 is interesting because he seems assured that God would deliver the Jews. He knew that Esther's choice was not whether or not the Jews would be saved, but whether or not she would be the one to do it. All that God has said will be accomplished. The question is, will we be the one to accomplish it?

We also have been given a task to be the ones God uses to save people, not from physical death, but from eternal, spiritual death. God will save those people. The question is, are we going to be a part of God's plan, or will we be a part of the opposition? Will we allow God to use us, or will we make ourselves unavailable and force Him to use someone else. Like Esther, we face challenges to sharing. We might be made fun of, lose friendships, be rejected or hated, or even face harm. But ultimately, the consequences of remaining silent are far higher than the consequences of obeying God's command to preach the Gospel. Most important, we know that the reward is worth it and that Jesus promises to be with us when we do obey (Matthew 28:18-20).

TOOK

Review the lesson by asking the class why it was difficult for Esther to make the right choice. Predict what might happen next week.

Pray: Ask the Lord for the strength to tell others about Him no matter what the cost. Thank Him for promising to be with us always.

Parent Question: What brave choice did Esther have to make?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Esther 4 by David Guzik

ESTHER'S DECISION

A. Mordecai's mourning.

1. ([Esther 4:1-3](#)) He and the rest of the Jews lament their fate.

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one *might* enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, *there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.*

a. **He tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes:** Though Mordecai was anguished at all this, we remember also that his integrity was the cause of it. He **cried out with a loud and bitter cry**, but he would not change his mind and grovel at the feet of Haman to save himself or his people.

i. This was not only because of the personal integrity of Mordecai, but also because he knew the character of the laws of the Persians - that they could not be changed once decreed ([Esther 1:19](#)).

b. **There was great mourning among the Jews:** Mordecai's reaction was imitated all over the Persian Empire in public expressions of grief and horror.

2. ([Esther 4:4-7](#)) Mordecai explains the problem to Esther.

So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept *them*. Then Esther called Hathach, *one* of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this *was*. So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that *was* in front of the king's gate. And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews.

a. **Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her:** Esther, living in the isolation of the palace, had not yet been made aware of this decree. Before she understood the decree, she could not understand why her cousin Mordecai made such a spectacle of himself.

b. **And the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews:** Mordecai was well aware of the money motive that made king Ahasuerus receptive to this evil plan.

B. Mordecai's request.

1. ([Esther 4:8-12](#)) His first request and Esther's appeal to him in response.

He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people. So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai. Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes in to the inner court to the king, who has not been called, *he has* but one law: put *all* to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called

to go in to the king these thirty days.” So they told Mordecai Esther’s words.

- a. **That he might show it to Esther and explain it to her:** After giving a copy of the decree to Esther through a courier, Mordecai challenged her to intercede on behalf of her people before the king.
- b. **Any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death:** Esther explained the difficulty behind this - she was only allowed to come to the king when called, and if she came on her own, she could be executed for daring to approach the king without an invitation.
- i. Apparently, the life of a queen of Persia was not one of great intimacy with the king. Esther said, **“I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days”** – meaning she had not seen her husband for an entire month.

2. ([Esther 4:13-14](#)) Mordecai’s second request.

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

- a. **Do not think in your heart that you will escape:** Mordecai reminded Esther that she could not remain insulated from this decree any more than anyone else.
- b. **If you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place:** Mordecai’s trust was in the faithfulness of God, not in the faithfulness of Esther. He knows that God will not let His people down, even if individuals let God down.
- c. **But you and your father’s house will perish:** Mordecai reminded Esther that though the fate of God’s people rested in God and not in her, her *own fate* depended on her own faithfulness to God.
- d. **Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?** Mordecai knew that God had promoted this orphan in exile for a reason - and Esther must have the courage and wisdom to see that reason and fulfill it.
- i. This principle applies to us also. God promotes us or puts us in a place for a reason, and we need the courage and wisdom to see that reason and to walk in it.
- ii. “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.” (Spurgeon)

iii. “I believe that in dark times God is making lamps with which to remove the gloom. Martin Luther is sitting by his father’s hearth in the forest when the Pope is selling his wicked indulgences: he will come out soon, and stop the crowing of the cock of the Romish Christ-denying Peter. John Calvin is quietly studying when false doctrine is most rife, and he will be heard of at Geneva. A young man is here this morning – I do not know whereabouts he is, but I pray the Lord to make this to be an ordination sermon to him, starting him on his life-work. I feel as if I were Samuel at Bethlehem, seedlings for David, to anoint him with a horn of oil in the name of the Lord.” (Spurgeon)

3. ([Esther 4:15-17](#)) Esther’s decision.

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

- a. **Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me:** Taking the determination of the Lord, Esther decided that she would go and make a bold appearance before the king, but only if she was supported by prayer and fasting.

i. Jesus reminded us that special spiritual battles sometimes require special preparation with prayer and fasting. Regarding a stubborn case of demonic possession, He said *this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting* ([Matthew 17:21](#)).

b. **And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!** Esther carried a bold attitude towards her mission. She was determined to be obedient, no matter what the cost.

i. Jesus exhorted us to have the same attitude: *Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul* ([Matthew 10:28](#)). Paul was also an example of this attitude: *To live is Christ, and to die is gain* ([Philippians 1:21](#)).