

Fear-Conquering Trust in the Lord's Providence
Esther 4:1-17

Section 1: The Jews Wail, Because King Xerxes Has Determined to Destroy Them. (4:1-3)

Section 2: Queen Esther Learns of the King's Edict to Destroy the Jews. (4:4-9)

Section 3: Mordecai Implores Queen Esther to Intercede for the Jews. (4:10-14)

Section 4: Queen Esther Prepares to Approach the King to Intercede for the Jews. (4:15-17)

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read aloud Esther 4:10-11. Esther was afraid to go to King Xerxes to intercede for the Jews. If the King was displeased with her, then he might kill her. Discuss ways that fear hinders Christians from following the Lord Jesus and his commands.
- 2) Following Jesus often requires taking some risks. It might mean risking a relationship with a non-believing friend by talking to them about God. It might mean giving away a generous amount of money as you trust the Lord to provide for you. It might mean risking your life by becoming a missionary in a dangerous part of the world. Can anyone share a time when they took a risk to follow Jesus' commands? How did things turn out?
- 3) Read aloud Esther 4:15-16 and Philippians 1:20-21. How does the Christian's union with Christ embolden him/her to take great risks for God? *(If interested in this topic, then download John Piper's free e-book "Risk is Right" at www.desiringgod.org/books/risk-is-right)*

One Thing: God created you to live at this specific time in history and placed you where you live, work, go to school, and play. What risk can you take this week to glorify God and to share his love with others?