

## *Using Influence for Impact*

Sometimes, life places you in a position of influence you never expected—and suddenly, the weight is on your shoulders. The influence is in your hands.

**The question is: what will you do with it?**

All of us—whether we realize it or not—have influence. It might not feel like much. But God has placed people around you—people you can impact.

Some use influence to climb higher—grabbing power, applause, or comfort.

But in the hands of someone who fears God, influence becomes something far greater. It becomes a tool for **God's purposes, God's glory, and the good of His people.**

That's what we see in Esther chapter 8.

Esther wears the crown. Mordecai wears the ring. But what's remarkable is how they **use** their influence.

**They** used the influence **God gave them** for the impact **God intended. So can you!**

**GOD GRANTS INFLUENCE FOR HIS IMPACT.**

How do you make the most of what God has given you? In this chapter, we find:

**Four examples of real people who made an eternal difference with the influence God granted.**

**Example #1 – God gave Esther a position, and she used it to empower the right man to lead (Esther 8:1–2).**

Haman—the man who held the king’s signet ring, who used his power for pride and destruction—is gone. And in a single day, everything he tried to protect is handed over to Esther. But don’t miss what Esther does next.

She could’ve taken over. She could’ve managed the estate herself, but she didn’t. Instead, she used her position to lift someone else up. She brought Mordecai forward. She used her voice and her influence to empower the right man to lead.

Esther gives us a picture of what it means to lead with humility. She shows us that real leaders don’t grab the spotlight—they shine it on others. They use their influence to elevate the right people, to make space for others to lead, to recognize when God is at work in someone’s life and cheer them on.

Barnabas did that for Paul. Paul did it for Timothy. And then he told Timothy: *Take what you've heard from me, entrust it to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

That's biblical leadership: using your influence to multiply impact empowering others.

**Example #2 – God gave Esther a burden, and she cried out to save people from destruction (Esther 8:3–6).**

By this point in the story, Esther and Mordecai are safe, but Esther couldn't forget the ones still in danger. She knew what it meant to be spared. She had experienced the joy of deliverance and the power of the king's favor. But she also knew the decree of death still hung over millions of others. And that reality *moved her*.

Esther didn't speak out because she had to. She spoke because she *couldn't stay silent*. She had experienced what it was like to be rescued from a death sentence—and now she longed for others to experience it too.

- 1. Do you still have a burden for those who are lost?**
- 2. Do you go before the King praying for the salvation of souls?**
- 3. Are you living in a way that delights the King?**

## 4. Are your prayers aligned with what matters to God?

### **Example #3 — God gave Mordecai authority, and he used it to spread good news (Esther 8:7–14)**

God gave Mordecai authority—and he used it to spread good news. To all people. In every place. In every language.

Warren Wiersbe put it this way: *“If only the church today were like those secretaries and couriers! How we need to tell the people of the world in their own languages the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The King has commanded us, and we must go—but for some reason we linger. If a group of pagan scribes and messengers, without modern means of transportation and communication, could take Mordecai’s decree to an entire empire, how much more should Christian workers be able to take Christ’s Gospel to a lost world?”*

### **Example #4 – God gave His people favor, and they used it to be a light to the world (Esther 8:15–17).**

What a turn of events! That’s what our God does. He rewrites hopeless stories. He brings beauty out of

ashes. He takes people headed for destruction and floods their lives with light and honor and joy.

Back in chapter 3, when Haman's decree went out, the city was thrown into confusion. Even the pagan citizens of Susa sensed something was wrong. But now? The whole city rejoices. Why? Because when the righteous rise, the people rejoice (Prov. 29:2). And when God's hand is evident, even the watching world takes notice.

Their sorrow turned into dancing. Their fear turned into feasting.

Their joy became **contagious**, and their celebration became a **witness** to the world.

And here's the miracle: as joy spread, hearts turned. People from the nations saw what God had done and said, *"I want to believe in their God—the God who gives life and joy and hope."*

That same God is still working today.