Mordecai

Standing in the Face of Adversity

November 8, 2026

Key Verse

Esther 3:2

All the king’s servants who were within the gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Lineage, vv. 5-6.

Shimei (2 Samuel 16:5-8)

King Saul’s descendant who threw stones at and cursed King David.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Lineage, vv. 5-6.

Kish, King Saul’s father, 1 Samuel 9:3.

Tribe of Benjamine, 1 Samuel 10:21, Esther 2:5.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Adoptive Father, vv. 7-18.

Cousin Esther, the daughter of his father's brother.

Same lineage.

Raised her as his own daughter.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Adoptive Father, vv. 7-18.

Esther 2:2-3, 8

Then the king's servants who attended him said: "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king; and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Adoptive Father, vv. 7-18.

So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Adoptive Father, vv. 7-18.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Adoptive Father, vv. 7-18

Esther 2:10

Perian kings did not take non-Persian women into their harems for political reasons.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:11

Adoptive Father, vv. 7-18.

Raising a child in the way they should go includes releasing them to their story/testimony.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1

Haman, 3:1

Son of Hammedatha the Agagite

Agag: a title of Amalekite kings.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Haman, 3:1; 1 Samuel 15

Mordecai's ancestor, King Saul, and

Haman's ancestor, Agag the Amalekite,

met in battle when King Saul was commanded to annihilate the Amalekites and destroy all the plunder.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Haman, 3:1; 1 Samuel 15

We also see the final redemption of Saul's failure when Mordecai and Esther both risk their lives to stand for their God and for their people, Israel – as Saul should have done – ending the generational curse upon their family line.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Haman, 3:1; 1 Samuel 15

We are all likely to have or have had generational curses/sins that affect ours and our children's lives.

Mordecai: The Man, Esther 2:5-3:1, Esther 2:5-3:1

Haman, 3:1; 1 Samuel 15

The good news is we can be set free of generational curses/sins by the Blood of Jesus which is a finished work.

We only need to learn to step into our freedom.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

Man in the Gate, vv. 2:21a.

- Government officials conducted business.
- Legal matters were addressed.
- Decisions were made.
- Royal affairs were managed.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

Man in the Gate, vv. 2:21-23.

Mordecai overhears a plot to kill the king.

He has choices:
Keep silent and see this secular king murdered, or
Save the king, his secret son-in-law.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

Man in the Gate, vv. 2:21-23.

Mordecai's good deed (saving the King's life) is written in the official chronicles of the kingdom.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

Mordecai's next choice:

- Bow down to a false god
- Stand, risking his life, to honor God

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

Mordecai shows us we can honor
a secular government without bowing to
cultural idols or false gods.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

Mordecai’s silent stand did not go unnoticed.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

Mordecai’s silent stand did not go unnoticed.

Mordecai’s stand incurred testing.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

There will always be those who will test your stand.

Some will be secular; some will be religious.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

We must live as Mordecai did and stand in obedience to God, not for His defense.

- He doesn’t need us to defend Him.
- He needs us to obey Him with the gifts and fruit of the Spirit.
- Sargeant at Arms is not a fruit or gift of the Spirit.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

2 Corinthians 5:20

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

Philippians 1:9-11 (emphasis mine)

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all **discernment**, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and **without offense** till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:1-15

We can learn from his example of his solid, silent, stance.

There is humility and strength in Mordecai’s stand.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:5-11

Saul was commanded to annihilate the Amalekites.

He failed and now:

An Amalekite seeks to annihilate the Jews.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:5-11

Song of Song/Solomon

Catch all the foxes, those little foxes, before they ruin the vineyard of love, for the grapevines are blossoming!

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:5-11

God’s commands have purpose and failure to obey has consequences.

Thinking of King Saul: Every fox we leave unattended will come back to bite us.

Mordecai: The Official, Esther 2:19-3:15

The Man Who Stood, 3:5-11

God’s commands have purpose and failure to obey has consequences.

Thinking of our descendants: every fox we leave unattended will potentially become a generational curse/sin in our family line.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai Mourns, vv. 1-3.

Ancient depictions of court servants either had their mouths covered or were shown smiling to express joy in serving their king.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

Mordecai commands his daughter/queen go to the king and plead for their people.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

Esther Excuses:

- The honeymoon is over.
- No easy access.
- **I COULD DIE!**

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

vv. 13-14

Mordecai, the loving father, who knows his daughter.

- Do not assume you will escape.
- Deliverance will come from elsewhere – you will still die.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

He is still pointing Esther in the way she should go.

- Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
- Calling her back to alignment with God over her secular position.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

According to Mordecai, she will die either way, so she might as well die trying.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

Raising a child in the way they should go is more than giving them a lifelong relationship with Jesus. It is also setting them on course to meet their sphere of influence outside of the church.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

Mordecai just commanded his beloved daughter to take her life in her hands for the sake of their people. He is potentially sacrificing his own child for the good of his people.

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Mordecai: Man of Faith, Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai and Esther Email, vv. 4-16.

We do not come to a King who is temperamental or unpredictable.

Our King invites us to “come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 5:9-14.

Honor to see queen at all, especially in person as queens were secluded from public view. To lay eyes on her was reserved for an intimate few.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 5:9-14.

John 10:10a

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

Esther 6:4-10

So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!' "

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

"Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

Esther 6:11-12

So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!" Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

Lamentations 3:22-23.

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

1 Peter 5:6

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time, he will lift you up in honor.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Between Banquets, 6:1-12.

Two responses:

- Mordecai returns to the gate – business as usual.
- Haman runs home – now the one mourning.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Second Banquet, 7:1-10.

Psalm 7:16

says of the wicked, “His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.”

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

Second Banquet, 7:1-10.

Proverbs 26:27

Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

Mordecai: Result of Faith, Esther 5:9-7:10

The result of Mordecai's faithfulness to stand when others bowed was his mortal enemy forced to honor him.

The result of Eshter's courageous faith was victory over the enemy.

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

A Royal Family, 8:1

Mordecai:

- Came before the king.
- Esther told the king how they were related.
- Now openly father-in-law to the king.
- Reunited with his beloved daughter.

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

You and I are invited into the royal palace
by the blood of Jesus.
Why continue standing in the court or the gate?

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

Authority, vv. 8:9-11; 9:29.

- Co-write decree with Esther to counter Haman's.
- Co-write/institute Feast of Purim with Esther.
- Given king's signet ring to write in his name.

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

Promotion, v. 8:15, 10:3.

Esther 8:15

So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

2 Timothy 4:7-8.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

Promotion, vv. 8:15, 10:3

Esther 10:3

Mordecai the Jew became the prime minister, with authority next to that of King Xerxes himself. He was very great among the Jews, who held him in high esteem, because he continued to work for the good of his people and to speak up for the welfare of all their descendants.

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

Results of Promotion, 8:17; 9:3-4.

Jewish people were elevated because Mordecai stood when others bowed.

Many people became Jews for fear of the Jews fell on them.

Mordecai: Rewards of Faith, Esther 8:1-10:3

Results of Promotion, 8:17; 9:3-4.

Those instigators who wanted to see what would happen if they exposed Mordecai found out, and they helped the Jews for fear of Mordecai.

Fear: dread, sudden alarm, terror.

Mordecai

God works the night shift.
Trust that He is working in the background
to bring deliverance to your situation.

Mordecai

Maybe you were born for such a time as this
to be the Mordecai of someone else's story.

Mordecai

Being the Mordecai of someone else's story
does not stall your promotion.
It might accelerate it!

Mordecai

Like Saul, the spiritual enemies we do not conquer in our lives will affect our descendants.

Mordecai

Like Mordecai and Esther,

we can conquer the enemies left to us by our ancestors and set our descendants free.

Mordecai

The Man Who Stood