



FAITH  
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SIMPLE

## Episode 219 - Esther

*Why is the providence of God so important to a Christian?*

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### **Jerry Green:**

Welcome friends, as we continue our ninth season of Faith Made Simple with our pastor and teacher, Todd Smith. I'm Jerry Green, your host. If you've been with us on previous podcasts, then you know Pastor Todd has a passion for explaining God's Word. And as we've said all along, understanding and obeying God's Word is key in the Christian's life. We continue holding fast to James 1:25 that promises God's blessing when we are faithful and obedient. So let's listen now as Todd shares his thoughts for today.

### **Todd Smith:**

Hey, thanks for joining us today. We're going to be talking about the long hand of God's providence. As we continue this February theme of looking at Old Testament men and women we can pattern our lives after, we come to the story of Esther.

It's a very familiar story—one many of us probably learned in Sunday school. But it's always good to revisit the book of Esther and consider how God works in the shadows to accomplish His purposes, just as He did in Esther's life.

The remarkable thing about the book of Esther is that it never mentions God's name, yet His presence is evident on every page. It's a story of providence. A story of divine appointments that look like coincidences until you see the sovereign hand behind them.

Esther was a Jewish orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai in the Persian Empire. When King Ahasuerus disposed of Queen Vashti, Esther was taken into the royal harem. Through a series of events, Esther became queen, though she kept her Jewish identity secret as Mordecai advised.

Then comes Haman—an arrogant official elevated far above his character. When Mordecai refused to bow to him, Haman's pride turned into murderous hatred. He plotted to annihilate the Jews and tricked the king into issuing an irreversible decree.

Mordecai urged Esther to intervene because the lives of her people were at stake. And he told her that famous line from Esther 4:14:

"Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Here we see the tension between human responsibility and divine sovereignty. Esther faced real danger. Approaching the king uninvited could mean death. Yet she responded with fasting, prayer, and resolve, saying, "If I perish, I perish."

God had positioned Esther exactly where she needed to be. She didn't seek the throne, but circumstances placed her there. Mordecai reminded her that deliverance would come because God's promises cannot fail—but her silence could cost her family dearly. That's the challenge for us. Are we willing to step forward when God opens the door, even at personal cost?

Esther's banquet exposed Haman's plot. The king learned of Mordecai's earlier service and honored him publicly. Haman was hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai. The Jews were given permission to defend themselves, and the day of deliverance became the feast of Purim.

What does the book teach us? God's hidden providence. His long hand of providence. He doesn't always work through miracles or loud declarations. Sometimes He weaves ordinary events into extraordinary outcomes.

You may feel overlooked or placed in an unlikely position—a difficult job, a strange family, a challenging season. Remember: God is at work when it seems like He's doing nothing. He may have brought you right where you are for such a time as this.

Commit your way to Him. Seek His wisdom. Trust His timing. Obey His leading. Watch Him turn mourning into joy. Because in His providence, nothing in your life is wasted.

**Jerry Green:**

Thanks, Todd. Friends, we want to pause for a moment before we ask Todd a couple of questions and remind you that Faith Made Simple is a free ministry. Our audience continues to grow, and we want to say thanks because faithful listeners like you subscribe to the podcast and share it on social media. So let's return now and see if we can stump Todd with a couple of questions.

God is always working out the details of the circumstances that come our way, right? So why is the providence of God so important to Christians?

**Todd Smith:**

That's a great question. The providence of God is such a significant doctrine because without it, life could feel extremely random and overwhelming.

God's sovereignty reminds us that He is all-powerful. He controls every molecule of the universe. But His providence reminds us that He is all-purposeful.

When you combine sovereignty and providence, you see that God has powerful purpose. He has purpose in our pain, purpose in our suffering, and purpose in His plans. His plans will not be thwarted, and they are not meant for our harm. He is for us, not against us.

**Jerry Green:**

Psalm 103 says His kingdom rules over everything. Sometimes we think the God of the Old Testament is different from today, but the same God who parted the Red Sea watches over us now.

**Todd Smith:**

Exactly. When Scripture says He rules over everything, that includes not just mountains and volcanoes, but your boss, your home, your child's heart. He is sovereign over the practical details of life.

**Jerry Green:**

I call Him the God of details. If you read through Exodus and Deuteronomy, you see just how detailed He is.

**Todd Smith:**

Absolutely.

**Jerry Green:**

Thanks, Todd. And that, my friends, brings us to the close of this episode. Lord willing, we will be back next week with another podcast.

Just a reminder before we sign off: we welcome you to join us at Crossroads Community Church in Valencia, California. Each week, God's Word is taught faithfully, verse by verse. If you'd like more information about the podcast or the church, visit [FaithMadeSimple.net](http://FaithMadeSimple.net).

On behalf of Pastor Todd and the Faith Made Simple team, we look forward to our next visit. Until then, remain faithful by being a doer of God's Word.