

Esther 4

Jesus

- **Mordecai the Jew** refuses to bow to Haman the Agagite. Furious.
- **Haman Plan:** Get the King to sign decree calling for **annihilation all Jews...**

I. Esther's Courage

1 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.

- **Mental Agony...** Mordecai refused to bow/now all Jewish lives in jeopardy
 1. **Tears clothes/Sackcloth/Ashes head:** Public expression of grief/horror
 2. Crying loudly/bitterly throughout the streets of city

2 [Mordecai] went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one *might* enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

- King wants to see happy people...

Nehemiah 2:1 [Kings cupbearer is upset] ... took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. **2** Therefore the king said to me, **"Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? ...** So I became **dreadfully afraid...**

- When the King troubled/everybody troubled...

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king heard this [Jesus was born], **he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.**

- **Mordecai:** Picture of Spirit grieved by the flesh...

Ephesians 4:30 ... do not **grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

3 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.

Great Mourning among Jews... Big Scene among the Gentiles

- Fasting/Weeping/Wailing/Sackcloth/Ashes on heads...

4 So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was **deeply distressed.**

- **Esther enjoying life** as queen of world yet Isolated from world
 1. Hears cousin Mordecai sackcloth/ashes
 2. Esther does not know Haman's plan to kill all Jews...**one of which is Esther**

4b... Then [Esther] sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth

away from him, but **he would not accept them.**

- Time for mourning? Is it okay to mourn? Is it helpful/profitable to mourn?

Ecclesiastes 3:4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; **A time to mourn...**

Ecclesiastes 7:2 [It is...] Better to go to the **house of mourning** Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is **made better**. 4 The heart of the **wise is in the house of mourning**, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

Mourning brings sobriety. Sobriety brings wisdom. Wisdom brings right decisions [NJC]

5 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.**

Esther calls Hathach the Eunuch of the King
Go to Mordecai ask what's going on

6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was **in front of the king's gate**. 7 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. 8 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. 9 So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

- **Hathach says to Esther...**

1. Here is the decree to annihilate all Jews
2. Mordecai wants you to beseech the King **to save them...**

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that 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, 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." 12 So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

- **If I do what you ask...I may die**

1. **No one** enters the inner court w/out invitation from King
2. **Anyone** who tries dies... unless the King holds up golden scepter

I haven't seen the King in a month...I'm not sure how he feels about me

- **Tad bit out of my comfort zone...**to do what Mordecai [Spirit] says...

1. I don't have a peace about it? So what?
2. Did Jesus *have a peace* about doing the Father's will in garden?

What is the Spirit asking you to do that's a tad or two out of your comfort zone?

- Call that person/Forgive that person/Humble yourself before God/man?
- Obey Spirit to the point of death; i.e. death of self?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Living sacrifices can choose to crawl off the altar

- If I do what you ask...**I may die**

13 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**. 14 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.

- Mordecai trusts in faithfulness of God... not Esther
 1. **You may be first to die**...even if you don't talk to the king
 2. **Even so**...God will raise up another deliverer to leave a remnant of us

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**. [Guzik]

God promised to leave a remnant of Jews...but that might not include you!

- **Mordecai [Spirit] leaves three Esther with 3 Scenarios**
 1. Be silent and possibly die as a coward
 2. Speak up and possibly die as a Hero...

14b... Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

3. **Speak up and trust in the Kings Grace. Live as a Hero. This is you time.**
- **Such a time as this**...2020 without doubt the stupidest year in Human History
 1. Most volatile time in Human History
 2. Most dangerous time in Human History
 3. Most exciting time in Human History

1 Chronicles 12:32... the sons of Issachar who had **understanding of the times**...[knew] what Israel ought to do

Understood the times...and what the times required of them

1. **Walk circumspect:** Know what to do/to recognize God's plan for you **here/now**
2. **Take responsibility** for life God gave you/...not squandering opportunities **here/now**
3. **Save/heal/encourage** those God sets in our path...**here/now**

You are not here by coincidence. You are living here/at this time on purpose/for a purpose
...who knows whether you are here for **such a time as this?**

- **I might die?** You will die to self. You might die physically. And?

Philippians 1:20 ... my earnest expectation and hope [is] that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 **For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

What is it going to be?

Coward or a Hero who risked everything for others. Esther chooses hero...

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: 16 "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.

- **Esther:** Teachable, Humble, **now Courageous...**
 1. **Leader:** Gather the Jews/fast for me
 2. **Example:** My Persian maids will also fast? Esther's converts?

Esther leads by humility, example and courage...

16b... And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and **if I perish, I perish!"**

- I will risk my life for others while **trusting in the Grace of the King**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

If I perish...I perish!

Daniel 3:15 [3 Boys would not bow] Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" ... **16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego** answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is **able to deliver** us from the burning fiery furnace, and **He will deliver us** from your hand, O king. 18 **But if not**, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be **present with the Lord.**

- **If I perish...I perish.** When I close my eyes here, I will open them there

17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

- **Mordecai did what Esther told him:** Gathered all Jews/Fast/Pray for Three days

SUMMARY Esther's Courage. Courage than must endure... one thing to be courageous at the beginning of a trial/another to follow through to the end