



**Let's Talk:**

When you were a child, what did you dream you would do? How far did you pursue that dream?

**Let's Study:**

Read Esther 4 (in two different translations).

What do you observe about Esther's character?

Describe what Esther's options were and the probable outcome in either case.

What finally convinces Esther to go to the king?

What specific instructions did she send back to Mordecai? Why is this significant?

Read Matthew 16:24.

Pastor Ben mentioned the 'compromise of comfort' hindered Esther from initially living out her identity as *Called*. What does it mean to you, when Jesus said to His followers 'take up your cross'?

**Let's Apply:**

In the book of Esther, we see a king use his power for his own selfish gain at the cost of others.

In contrast, Jesus states that in the kingdom of God, the first will be last and last will be first.

How does the kingdom of God differ from earthly kingdoms?

How are you prone to respond in a crisis situation? Would your response be similar to Esther's? In what way?

Esther had her people fast as a group on her behalf. Have you done this before? What do you see as the benefit to fasting?

After Haman is hanged and the Jewish people are given their proper rights, many people throughout the nation declared themselves to be Jews. Esther and Mordecai's actions resulted in the salvation of many people. Have you seen God use one person's obedience for the salvation of others?

**Let's Pray:**

Esther and Mordecai put themselves at risk for justice and for their people. As a group, pray against injustice and for those who are standing for it.