

# Women of Faith: In Spite of It All

## Esther: A Woman of Purpose

### Esther 4:10-17

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#### Introduction

Esther's story is an incredible one filled with suspense, intrigue, drama, mystery, corruption, injustice, fear, distress, and much more. It is little wonder why her story, as unbelievable as it might sound, is one that we can relate to. In spite of all she endured, through faith, she witnessed the overwhelming hand of victory for her people by her God.

By looking at this woman of faith's story we will discover three realities that apply to our lives as we pursue God's purpose for our own lives.

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#### 1. Life does not always go as planned.

Though we do not know for certain what was going through Esther's mind as she was confronted with the decision to approach the king, it is easy to surmise that it was not part of her plan.

As we look at our own stories the majority of us have had life experiences that caused our lives to turn out differently than what was planned. Yet, it is what we do with those experiences that matter the most. Two truths will help in this regard:

#### 1. **The definition of who you are is not determined by anyone or anything other than the One who created you.**

Though Mordecai instructed Esther to keep her identity as a Jew quiet, she never lost who she was while honoring his request. Some people change who they are in times of difficulty. Esther came alive in her Jewish heritage when she needed God the most. Circumstances reveal who we really are.

#### 2. **Even though it may not be visible, God's hidden hand of providence is assuredly working in and around your circumstances.**

When life seems to get out of control it is easy to feel as though God is not paying attention. Yet, God is always at work in our lives even when we may not see it in action.

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## 2. Everyone does not like you

The entire situation that Esther was dealing with was the result of Haman's extreme hatred for Mordecai. In order to "get back" at Mordecai, Haman was willing to cause the death of countless innocent individuals. Haman, unwittingly, played into the enemy's attempt to exterminate God's people. That same spirit is alive today.

The quicker that we come to the realization that there are people who do not like us the stronger we will become. As the world becomes more violently intolerant to those who identify with Christ, the less His church will be accepted.

The fact that there are people who do not like us should increase our involvement with the world instead of diminishing it.

**You are being sent into a world full of hate with God's message of love.**

We must realize that those who hate us do not have control over us. We cannot give them control over us.

In the end God turned the tide on Haman and all who desired to destroy God's people. We can experience the same. Not by compromising who we are but by being Jesus to our enemies.

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## 3. You will face impossible situations.

Esther's first words came in chapter four as she was faced with an impossible situation. No one approached the king without having an invitation from him. For her to approach him uninvited was at great risk to her life. Her words were not a matter of refusal to do so, as much as it was stating the cost of the request.

When faced with impossible situations it is important for us to realize that God often places human impossibilities before us in order to demonstrate His power to us. Our response is to trust Him. When we do we will see Him do amazing things that we would otherwise miss.

Esther's faith and God's providence collided in a series of events that unlocked the impossible. We can witness the same in our lives.

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## Conclusion

For a Biblical book that is not overtly spiritual, the Holy Spirit is the active agent in this story. He is the One who is at work in your story as well.

God is raising up a generation of Esthers, specially for the times in which we are living, to accomplish the work of freeing those in bondage. Are you an Esther? Will you let God work through you for something great?