

I. The Owning of a Burden (8a)

“Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction...”

II. The Sharing of a Burden

A. Our potential to enlist relief (8b-9) - “...that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. 9 And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said.”

B. Our potential for self-preservation (10-11) "10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law-to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

C. Our potential sense of helplessness (12) - “And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.”

Esther’s response would have landed hard upon Mordecai. She seemed to be preserving herself and retreating from the needs of all her people.

III. The Blessings Within a Burden (13-17)

A. We have to face reality (13-14a) - “Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14a For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish.” Mordecai apparently had more confidence in God's ability than he did Esther's willingness

B. We have to consider possibility (14b) - “And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

C. We have to employ bravery (15-17) - “Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,16 “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.” Note the shift in their roles. Sometimes we are the follower, sometimes we are the pioneer