

## Esther: "The Queen of Beauty and Courage"

### MY Comfort or HIS Kingdom

**ASK YOURSELF: What is my idea of comfort?** (*Not only my physical comfort but my emotional and spiritual comfort*)

Common Comforts:

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Safety                  | 4. Justice (What I deserve) |
| 2. Financial Security      | 5. Health                   |
| 3. Position/Power/Prestige | 6. Control                  |

Too often we seek our own comforts in life while putting God's purpose for us on the back burner. The story of Esther is a prime example of what it takes to put **God's Purpose above our own comfort and the reward that comes with making that decision.**

Every one of us will find ourselves at "**Forks in the Road**" where we must choose either our own comfort or God's Kingdom...

### #1 – Esther's Fork in the Road – God's Purpose or my own well-being?

Esther had it made! She was immediately elevated above all the other women in the empire. Her options were to take care of herself or pursue God's purpose in her life.

**Will we choose our own safety/comfort or fulfillment of God's Will in our lives?**

### # 2 –Mordecai's Fork in the Road –Challenge Esther or avoid conflict all together.

Mordecai knew exactly why Esther had the position that she had. **Esther 4:14** (ESV) <sup>14</sup> *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. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

**Will I shrink back from conflict in my life just to maintain comfort?**

### # 3 – Haman's Fork in the Road – Control my circumstances (people) or find my identity in God?

For Haman, the most important thing was whether or not people recognized him and feared him. He was constantly showing off his wealth/power. His ultimate desire was control over people. This was his security!

- **Is your identity completely tied up in what people think about you? Do you feel like you need to control people?**
- **Do you desire to control people in order to feel secure?**

Irony is that the very thing Haman designed to control people (*Gallows*) ended up being the thing that killed him.

**God doesn't call us to a life of comfort, He calls us to a life of commitment.**

