

**“My Part in God’s Drama”**  
**Esther: Living for God in a Godless Culture (Lesson #2)**  
**(Esther Ch. 2)**

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Billy Johnson & Rick Stedman

**Three main characters in Esther – and in life:**

**1. Xerxes: The all-powerful, and all-messed-up king. (1-4)**

- His own mistakes caused him to feel miserable.
- He listened to the advice of foolish young men. (2)
- He thought a sexy, new wife would make him happy.

**2. Mordecai: The man trying to straddle the fence. (5-10)**

- A Jew related to the royal family of Saul.
- He thought he could hide his race and religion; separate his private faith from his public life. (Mordecai < Marduk, the Babylonian God.)
- His compromise almost led to his people’s destruction.

**3. Esther: The girl trying to make everyone happy. (7-18)**

- A Jewish orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai.
- Esther was compliant when Mordecai told her to hide her race.  
(Hebrew name: Hadassa, from the myrtle tree.)  
(Persian name: Esther, from Ishtar or star.)
- She was compliant under Hegai’s supervision. (9, 15)
- She was obviously compliant in her one night with the king.
- Sooner or later, a conflict always arises and we discover it’s impossible to make everyone happy.

**The 3 main questions in Esther – and in my life:**

1. Am I like Xerxes? Do I think power and pleasure will make me happy?
  2. Am I like Mordecai? Do I think I can be godly at home or church but hide my faith at work, school, or \_\_\_\_\_?
  3. Am I like Esther? Do I try to make everyone happy, but find in the end this is impossible?
- ⇒ In the end, we can either try to please ourselves, others, or God. Which part in the drama have I chosen?