



Title: Hope in the Mess, Providence in the Pain

Series: Esther: God is Working Even When We Don't Feel It

Scripture: Esther 2

2025 Theme Scripture: Romans 1:16-17 (ESV) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

February Scripture Memory: Esther 4:14 (ESV) *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?*

3 Fallen People and their decisions

A. Ahasuerus/Xerxes (vs. 1-2)

- Xerxes made an unwise decision in seeking the counsel of young single men.
 - Have you ever taken unwise advice from impetuous people? How did it go?
- Rather than seek repentance and restitution with God, Xerxes seeks comfort in physical pleasure. (vs. 2-4)
 - Have you ever sought comfort in a person rather than seeking true peace and comfort in God alone?
- Xerxes made a reprehensible decision to search for a wife in an objectifying way. (vs. 1-4)
 - Have you ever made a decision that was thoroughly sinful?

B. Mordecai (vs. 5-11)

- Mordecai made a disobedient decision by staying in his culturally comfortable faith. (vs. 5-6)
 - Has God ever called you to something and you said "no" to God? It's too hard?
- Mordecai made a passive decision by choosing to remain silent. (vs. 7-11)
 - Have you ever known the right thing to do in your heart, but remained silent?

real
people

walking
with Christ

inviting
others

serving
together

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C. Esther

- Esther made a concealing decision by obeying her uncle and not God. (v. 10)
 - Have you ever obeyed someone you loved rather than obeying God?
- Esther made a compromising decision because she was in a compromising situation. (vs. 12-17)
 - Have you ever made a decision to do something you felt pressured to do but knew it wasn't right?

Trust by faith that God's Plans will be accomplished (vs. 18-23)

1. God uses our sins and mistakes to change US and how we OPERATE.
2. God can get us and work powerfully through the MESS/TROUBLE we find ourselves in.
3. God's ultimate plan is the redemption of man! The GOSPEL is God's plan. (THIS IS SURE - NOTHING WILL STOP THIS...not even you)