



Lessons From Esther

Ecclesiastes 12:13 NIV Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

- In other words, here is what I have learned
- It is good to stop after reading a biblical section or book and ask ourselves some questions

Ecclesiastes 12:13 NIV Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

- What have I learned?
- What am I supposed to apply to my daily life?
- How does God want me to think, live and respond?

Esther is a story of

- Transformation
- Courage
- Hope in hopeless times
- God's presence yet silence
- I have pulled out 5 key truths for me from this book

God always has a plan

- **Esther 4:14 NLT** If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”
- Mordecai is reinforcing the meaning for Esther’s existence

God always has a plan

- Mordecai is saying that God has a divine plan for everyone and everything and He believes Esther was placed into a royal position in order to assist the delivery of God's work

God always has a plan

- Oftentimes we face obstacles and difficult times that cause our lives to be tumultuous
- Tumultuous - Full of riotousness; marked by disturbance and uproar, raising a great clatter and commotion; disorderly or noisy, highly agitated, as the mind or emotions

God always has a plan

- We must always remember that God has a bigger plan of action and everything truly happens for a reason we might never be able to see here and now
- Without God's obstacles and challenges we must realize that we wouldn't grow into being the people we were meant to be

God always has a plan

- No matter how devastating a situation may be or the feelings of brokenness that we feel, we as God's children must have confidence that we will prevail because God will prevail and we are His children
- God has provided all of his children the means to overcome anything that occurs
- Always remember God has a divine plan!

We must overtly look for ways that will allow our minds to become clear and focused on God

- **Esther 4:15-16 NLT** 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die.”

We must overtly look for ways that will allow our minds to become clear and focused on God

- Throughout the story, it's evident that a God's presence was needed in order for God's plan on earth to work as He intended
- Aside from all that, Esther needed guidance, direction and courage to get her through this challenging time

We must overtly look for ways that will allow our minds to become clear and focused on God

- She knew she needed God's presence, even if she could not see Him in action
- She humbly placed herself before God seeking Him, His way, His timing
- **James 4:10 NIV** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up

We must overtly look for ways that will allow our minds to become clear and focused on God

- This enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life
- This requires a time of deep meditation upon God and His word bringing an awareness of His presence in your life

We must overtly look for ways that will allow our minds to become clear and focused on God

- We get caught up with the fast pace of life
- The duties that we must complete at home and at work or school can get frustrating and cause unexpected stress

We must overtly look for ways that will allow our minds to become clear and focused on God

- It's very important that we find a balance within life's requirements for time with our Master, just as Jesus did
- Don't wait until you hit rock bottom, instead, instill a regular course of humility into your life that will keep you on a definitive checks and balance system

Life takes godly courage

- **Esther 4:10-11 NLT** 10 Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: 11 “All the king’s officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days.”

Life takes godly courage

- Esther knew that she wanted to save her people and it was going to take godly courage for her to do it
- Courage is not something that we all possess on a whim
- Instead courage is a characteristic that is developed
- God provides us with the platform, like He did for Esther

Life takes godly courage

- When the Holy Spirit stirs up a passion within us, a heavenly presence will stand beside us and allow us to speak a little louder, stand a little taller and shine a little brighter
- **Matthew 10:19 NLT** When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time.

Life takes godly courage

- Next time you're faced with a challenging time, remember Esther
- Remember when Esther faced and accepted death ultimately for the greater good of humanity
- We are all placed on the earth for a purpose and it's important to identify that reasoning when it comes into fruition
- The best thing about having courage is knowing that you'll never stand alone

God requires obedience

- **Esther 5:1-2 NLT** 1 On the third day of the fast, Esther put on her royal robes and entered the inner court of the palace, just across from the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne, facing the entrance. 2 When he saw Queen Esther standing there in the inner court, he welcomed her and held out the gold scepter to her. So Esther approached and touched the end of the scepter.

God requires obedience

- Esther's obedience to God's plan for her brought about a salvation for the Jewish people
- It's important to remember that God requires all of his children to be obedient
- God has a plan of action for us all and if we listen to God and have faith, He will guide us into the right path

God requires obedience

- God is trying to explain to you that he needs you stay obedient and stay on the beaten path – the path that He has carved out specifically for you
- Being obedient to God doesn't mean you're complacent, instead it means that you have complete faith in your Lord and Savior
- You understand the sacrifices that he made for your life and with that comes respect which is carried out through an obedient nature and course of action

Handicaps and hardships do not have to define your tomorrow

- **Esther 2:17 NLT** And the king loved Esther more than any of the other young women. He was so delighted with her that he set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti.
- **Esther 9:32 NLT** So the command of Esther confirmed the practices of Purim, and it was all written down in the records.

Handicaps and hardships do not have to define your tomorrow

- God's people are not excluded from life and the potential for greatness because of a handicap or hardship
- Esther was a Jew who'd been exiled in a foreign land and she was an orphan
- Even though she was removed from Persian nobility, God still had a plan and position for her

Handicaps and hardships do not have to define your tomorrow

- God could see the strengths that Esther possessed and understood how to use her traits for the greater good of her people
- Handicaps and hardships are just tools for God to use in your life

Summary

- Ask yourself and answer the question honestly, are you limiting your future because of the crutches you're holding onto?
- Do you often give yourself a “break” because you feel like you've been given the shorter stick compared to those around you?

Summary

- Handicaps and hardships are not the crippling factor in a situation, instead it's the person behind that handicap and/or hardship that is causing the issues (You)
- Instead of looking at things from a small lens, think about the possibilities that lie just over the horizon.
- Get excited for what God is going to do in your life and begin to look for His hand of guidance in it

Summary

- Yes, it will be a lot of work to get there however in the end it will be worth it when we hear our Master say, *“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”*
- After all of your hard work and devotion, you’ll possess a greater sense of confidence in God and perseverance in His Word



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