

## Esther Chapters 4-8

Have you seem someone did some tasks or missions that are so terribly wrong? Have you seem someone did similar type of tasks and done it very well? You will be even more surprise when that person is a very young person because many people think young people often have less experience. Esther is an example of a young person that has completed a mission extremely well. Let's see how she did it.

Book of Esther is an Old Testament book. Many Jews went back to Jerusalem and the nearby regions after the Persian took control over the Babylonian, and allowed the Jews to move back. Esther is part of those Jews that did not move back and remained near central Persia. Chapters 1 to 3 described Esther has been selected to be the queen although the King did not know she was a Jew. Chapters 4 to 8 are about her mission to save the Jews.

Chapters 1 to 3 have showed the general preparation she went through that shaped her to be patience, to be able to work with people, think through situations, etc. Chapters 4 to 8 described her act in the mission.

### 1) Acceptance of a mission with courage

- a. The action Esther took was to **fast and seek God's direction**. She also asked other God's people to fast with her (Esther 4:16). When you hear a mission or a task for you from God, first thing to do is to spend some time to listen to God and seek some confirmation. One needs to make sure it is not from one's emotion or personal desire.
- b. She accepted the mission with courage (Esther 4:16). It is very risky to deal with the King and many high rank officials that are not friendly to Jews. Thus, **accepting a mission with courage** is very important. Sometimes we don't want to take a task due to our laziness, lack of compassion, lack of confidence, etc. Most of you can recall the Jonah story. Even if you don't want to take on God's assigned mission, you will end up suffer and have to do it anyway. Ask God to give you courage if you are lack of it.

## 2) Approach that is well suited for the situation

You can see Esther carefully selected an approach and planned it out so that the King was willing to listen and act in her favor. In each step, she looked at the condition and carefully approached the King to ensure the King is ready to listen in her favor. There are different ways of respond under an opposition. As some examples listed in the Bible, one can 1) temporally escape during a mission like Paul and Barnebus as described in Acts 14:1-7 (also see Matt. 10:23), 2) direct confrontation as in Stephen's example (Acts 7) or 3) delayed respond/confrontation till a suitable condition as in Esther's case. Delayed respond/confrontation is to set a condition, in an appropriate time, for the responder to act leaning to your favor and giving you a desirable result.

One shall not think of a mission or a task as something like "save the world" or "save a race" only, as in the case of Esther. One shall think about it as occurring in a daily situation. For example, God calls you to evangelize. If you are noticed of some friend that God want you to evangelize to. Follow the 3 steps. Take courage to approach the person and pray about it as stated in step one. Find the right approach as in this step. A clear example of "Delayed respond/confrontation" approach is Jesus talking to the woman in the well (John 4:4-42). When the subject is ready to respond, you can deliver your message. Thus, you can apply Esther's experience in your daily life.

## 3) Alignment with God

God is actually in control at all times. Thus, when we seek God wholeheartedly and follow His direction, He will make you succeed. Take the example of King Xerxes, he can't sleep at that night and start looking through the chronicles (Esther 6:1-2). God was already doing the work of softening King Xerxes' heart toward Jews. God's timing already set in the grand scheme. God prepared the situation where Esther can succeed.

If you look in a bigger scale and timeline, Satan try to defeat God's people using the gallows but was defeated by God on the Gallows; similarly Satan try to defeat God's people by killing Jesus on the cross and at the end the cross is what defeated Satan.

There are often more elements are needed in completing a mission but the above three are important elements. In summary, you can learn from Esther's experience to apply in God's specific mission as well as in our daily tasks. Proverbs 3:6 in the Easy-to-Read Bible states "With every step you take, think about what he wants, and he will help you go the right way." God bless you on everything task you take!