



Lessons for Life

Meet Esther

Heroes of the Bible – 8

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“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14c (NIV)

- 1. Courageous faith is lived out in DIFFICULT circumstances.**

Background ...

Date Of Esther – 483 B.C. to 473 B.C.

Medo Persia is in power

Xerxes (Greek) or Ahasuerus (Hebrew) is King

Vashti is Queen

Mordecai – The older Jewish cousin who cared for Esther

Haman – Enemy of the Jews

“During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther.” Esther 2:21 (NIV)

“Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.” Esther 3:2C (NIV)

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom...it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.” Esther 3:8-9 (NIV)

2. Courageous faith is energized by PRAYER.

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” Esther 4:15-16 (NIV)

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

The Lord says, “These people worship Me with their mouths, and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is based on nothing but human rules.” Isaiah 29:13 (GW)

Fasting ...

Restores the loss of FIRST LOVE

Reinforces HUMILITY

“Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting.” Psalm 35:13 (NIV)

Reveals the WORD OF GOD in our hearts

Re-energizes the PRAYER LIFE

Recommended site for information on fasting ...

(www.cru.org/training-and-growth/devotional-life/7-steps-to-fasting/index.htm)

“Then if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, if they will pray and seek me and stop their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)