

# ESTHER



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Esther 2:1-17



Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them. Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it. - Esther 2:1-4



In all things and through all things  
God is at work in us and through us  
even though we sometimes do not see  
His hand at work.



Faithfulness often looks less like certainty  
and more like wisdom under pressure.



In the fortress of Susa, there was a Jewish man named Mordecai son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite. Kish had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the other captives when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took King Jeconiah of Judah into exile. Mordecai was the legal guardian of his cousin Hadassah (that is, Esther), because she had no father or mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was extremely good-looking. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter.

- Esther 2:5-7





Esther is a book about wisdom. Esther is about navigating faithful living within worldly realities and trusting that God's faithfulness will not fail us, even when the choices we make are filled with complexity.

God can work through flawed  
decisions, not just perfectly  
faithful ones.





Esther does not simplify human behavior or present clear-cut moral categories. Instead, it portrays a world where decisions are often mixed, imperfect, and at times even questionable—yet God’s purposes continue to move forward within that complexity.

- Pastor Jason

When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai.

- Esther 2:8a



Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem.

Esther 2:8b-9





Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.

Esther 2:10-11





Before a young woman's turn came to go into King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics. And this is how she would go to the king: Anything she wanted was given to her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. In the evening, she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem to the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name.

Esther 2:12-14

When the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

Esther 2:15-16



Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

Esther 2:17-18





Esther is not telling us what to do, it is assuring us that even when we don't know what to do, even when we have to make nearly impossible decisions, God is with us, God is faithful to us and God can even use those awful situations to work powerfully through us. When we do not understand we should remind ourselves of what we do know: *“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* (Romans 8:28)



# SERMON RESOURCES

