



“If I Perish, I Perish”
Esther 3:1-4:17
Sermon Date: August 22nd, 2010

Prayer:

As you read through the passage this week ask the Lord to reveal to you that which He wants you to learn from it. Pray that He would begin to show you how this particular story points to Christ. Ask that He would instill in you such a passion for His glory that you are willing to risk everything, even your life, in order to see other people come to worship His name.

Scripture:

Read Esther 3:1-4:17 and summarize the events that take place in each of the sections below.

Esther 3:1-6 –

Esther 3:7-15–

Esther 4:1-3 –

Esther 4:4-17 –

Study Questions:

It had been over 10 years since Esther was chosen as Queen, when Mordecai presented the question of whether or not she had “come to the kingdom for such a time as this” (4:14b). God clearly operates on His own timeframes. Do you find it difficult to trust in God’s timing over your own? Why or why not?

Mordecai was a man who wholeheartedly trusted in the faithfulness of God toward His people. We see this in 4:14a when he says to Esther, “For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place...” Do you have the same trust in the Lord’s plans and purposes? If you do, explain why you are able to trust that way? If not, explain why you find this difficult?

There are several instances in this part of the story in which we see people risking their lives for the sake of honoring God with their actions (3:1-6 - Mordecai, 4:12-17 - Esther). What drives people to look the possibility of death in the face and continue to do what is right in the Lord’s eyes? Ask yourself if you would be willing to do the same if you were in that situation.

Read Romans 13:1-2. It is easy to acknowledge that God placed Queen Esther in her position, but why do we find it more difficult to say that God placed King Ahasueres in his position as well? In what ways do we see God using a king of bad judgment to accomplish His will in this story?

“Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”
Queen Esther