

## **Esther: Star of Obedience**

### ⇒ **INTRODUCTION:**

- Ahasuerus was the king.
  - He had expelled the queen from her throne at his side and was in need of a new queen.
  - He had the fair ladies come by and apply for the throne.
  - Esther, through the leadership of her cousin, Mordecai, was an aspirant for the throne and wanted to be the wife of the king.

### ⇒ **I. ESTHER WAS CHASTE AND PURE.**

#### ⇒ **See Esther 2:2**

- In other words, she was a virgin.
  - Had she not been a virgin, she could not have been the queen.
  - Nothing will give one the opportunity for future usefulness quite as much as being clean and pure.
  - We should stress the importance of young people entering the marriage altar pure and clean.
  - This will give them opportunities for service in the future that are unlimited.

### ⇒ **II. ESTHER WAS FAIR.**

#### ⇒ **See Esther 2:3**

- .In other words, she was as pretty as she could be.
  - A lady should be pretty, and she should use her beauty for the glory of God.
  - Had Esther not been fair and kept herself pure and beautiful, she would not have been able to be a help.

### ⇒ **III. ESTHER MEANS "STAR"**

- She was certainly a star in the true sense of the word.

### ⇒ **IV. ESTHER HAD A HUMBLE ORIGIN**

#### ⇒ **See Esther 2:7**

- God can use people with humble backgrounds and humble beginnings, as is shown here.
- Examples:
  - God used a lad with a few fishes and loaves of bread to feed 5,000.
  - He used uneducated fishermen to preach the gospel
  - He used a little Jewish maiden to cure a great commander of the Syrian Army, Naaman.
  - He used a little Jew named Jonah to turn the great Gentile City Nineveh to the Lord.

### ⇒ **V. SHE WAS CARED FOR BY A MEMBER OF HER FAMILY.**

- ⇒ " ...whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter."- **Esther 2:7b**

- Mordecai was her cousin.
  - He had reared her.

- We should develop family ties and care for those in our families.
- ⇒ **VI. SHE WAS OBEDIENT TO MORDECAI.**
- ⇒ **See Esther 2:20**
  - This obedience was from childhood.
    - She had trained from a child in obedience.
    - Perhaps the greatest character aid in the world is to be taught obedience as a child.
    - How let us notice in what serious matter Esther obeyed her cousin.
- ⇒ **VI. SHE WAS OBEDIENT TO MORDECAI.**
  - There was a man named Haman who had been promoted to prime minister, second only to the king.
    - The people bowed before Haman, but Mordecai, the cousin of Esther, refused to bow before Haman.
    - Because of this, Haman was infuriated and vowed to kill Mordecai.
    - Finding out that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman came before the king, accused the Jews, and subtly got a decree from the king to have all the Jews killed.
    - He prepared gallows on which to hang Mordecai. What an unjust thing this is, but thank God the story is not over yet!
  - Mordecai heard of this awful decree that Haman had enticed the king to make, and Mordecai told Esther about it.
    - Esther said that she would go to the king and try to help.
    - However, a person that went before the king into his inner court without his permission could be killed, even though it be the queen.
    - The only thing that would spare this person's life would be for the king to hold up his golden scepter.
    - In other words, anyone who came into the inner chamber of the king was taking a chance on losing his life.
    - Esther said she would do it.
    - This leads us to the next point.
- ⇒ **VII. ESTHER WAS A WOMAN OF COURAGE.**
- ⇒ **See Esther 4:16**
  - She said, "I will go in unto the king."
    - She risked her life for the lives of her people.
    - This is not to say she was not afraid; in fact, recklessness and courage are two different things.
    - Real courage often is determined by the degree of fear.
- ⇒ **VIII. SHE REALIZED THE NEED OF PRAYER.**
- ⇒ **See Esther 4:16**
  - She told Mordecai to have the people fast for three days and pray for God to intercede for her and the people.

- Let us also realize our need of the prayers and concern of others.
- o Now let us continue the story.
  - So, Esther pursued her course.
  - She went before the king, and the king held up his golden scepter and spared her life.
  - She asked the king if she could have a banquet for him, for Haman (the enemy who had threatened to kill Mordecai and was having the Jews exterminated), and for her.
  - Haman is so pleased with the banquet the queen is having for him and the king that he goes home and tells all his friends and neighbors the honor that has been bestowed upon him.
  - He "toots his own horn" and spreads his own glory, thinking the banquet is indeed in his honor.
  - A miracle took place, however, and God spared the Jews.
- ⇒ **IX. THANK GOD HE INTERVENES WHEN HE CAN FIND SOMEONE COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO TAKE A STAND.**
- ⇒ **See Esther 6:1-3**
  - o Let us notice what happened.
    - The king goes to bed at night, but he finds he cannot sleep.
    - He tosses and turns and decides he will try to read himself to sleep.
    - He asks for someone to bring him the books of the Chronicles, telling of the history and the workings of his nation.
    - Providentially, an unusual story is brought to him as he reads.
    - The story is about Mordecai.
    - The story tells about two men that were going to kill the king and how Mordecai had heard about it and saved the king's life.
    - The king was surprised to read that Mordecai had saved his life and called someone to ask if Mordecai had been honored for this gallant and courageous act.
    - The answer came that he had not been honored.
  - o About that time Haman comes in. Haman, thinking the king is about to honor him and thinking that the Jews are about to be killed and not knowing of the king's dream, is asked by the king what he would suggest that the king do to honor someone upon whom honor is due.
    - Haman, thinking it is to be for himself, suggests that the king take the king's apparel, the king's horse, the king's crown, and have a parade in honor of this person.
    - Haman could see himself being the object of such adoration and praise.
    - He did not realize that the king was asking for some way to honor Haman's bitterest enemy.

- o So it is, the king asks Haman to go to get his apparel, his horse, his crown, and give it to Mordecai.
  - They then have the parade in Mordecai's honor.
- ⇒ **X. SIN IS PUNISHED.**
- ⇒ **See Esther 7:10**
  - o The banquet is held.
    - The queen tells the king the entire story, how that Haman had tried to kill her people, and how that he had been deceitful in so doing. Haman was killed; in fact, he was hanged on the same gallows he had prepared for Mordecai -
      - "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."
- ⇒ **XI. PROMOTION CAME!**
- ⇒ **See Esther 9:4**
- ⇒ **See Esther 10:3**
  - o Mordecai took the place of Haman and was promoted to second in command in the entire kingdom.
    - God blesses His own!