



Undercover Believer (Esther)

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Stepping Stones Community Church

Introduction:

- King’s party a flop
- God works through all circumstances

Esther, an undercover believer

1. Esther _____

As a result of the king’s decree, Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the king’s harem at the fortress of Susa... Esther had not told anyone of her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had directed her not to do so. Every day Mordecai would take a walk near the courtyard of the harem to find out about Esther and what was happening to her. **Esther 1:8, 10, 11**

Esther was taken to King Xerxes at the royal palace in early winter of the seventh year of his reign. And the king loved Esther more than any of the other young women. He was so delighted with her that he set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti. **Esther 2:16-17**

2. Plot _____

Some time later King Xerxes promoted Haman... over all the other nobles, making him the most powerful official in the empire. All the king’s officials would bow down before Haman to show him respect whenever he passed by, for so the king had commanded. But Mordecai refused to bow down or show him respect. **Esther 3:1-2**

Haman approached King Xerxes and said, “There is a certain race of people scattered through all the provinces of your empire who keep themselves separate from everyone else. Their laws are different from those of any other people, and they refuse to obey the laws of the king. So it is not in the king’s interest to let them live. If it please the king, issue a decree that they be destroyed...” **Esther 3:8-9**

3. Esther is faced with _____

“All the king’s officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days.” **Esther 4:11**

Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed... Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?” **Esther 4:13-14**

On the third day of the fast, Esther put on her royal robes and entered the inner court of the palace, just across from the king’s hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne, facing the entrance. When he saw Queen Esther standing there in the inner court, he welcomed her and held out the gold scepter to her. **Esther 5:1-2**

Next Steps:

- I will read Esther this week (10 chapters)
- I ask God to help me be more open with my faith and ways to share God’s truth and love
- I believe that God is leading me to stand up for and speak out about _____
- I’m facing a decision and will do the right thing
- _____