

# ESTHER: MORE THAN A PRETTY FACE (2) ESTHER 4

Life is about choices and their **inevitable** consequences.

We make **our** choices and **our** choices make us.

We make **our** choices and **our** choices make **other** choices.

## 1. Esther had a pretty face!

## 2. Esther had to face her **secret** → that is, her **identity**!

Esther 2:7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

Esther 2:10 Esther had **not shewed her people nor her kindred**: for Mordecai had charged her **that she should not shew it**.

Esther 2:20 Esther had **not yet shewed her kindred nor her people**; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

Esther 4:1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai **rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry**; Esther 4:2 And came even before the king's gate: **for** none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. Esther 4:3 And in **every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes**.

Esther 4:4 So Esther's **maids and her chamberlains** came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it **not**. Esther 4:5 Then called Esther for **Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains**, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, **to know what it was, and why it was**.

Esther 4:6 So **Hatach** went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. Esther 4:7 And Mordecai **told** him of all that had happened unto him, **and** of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. Esther 4:8 Also he **gave him** the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her **that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people**. Esther 4:9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Romans 13:14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof**.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ **have put on Christ**.

Esther is the only person / character in the story with

Hadassah = myrtle tree → Jewish

Esther = star or Ishstar (pagan god) → Persian

What did people know about Esther? How much did they know? When did they know it? Who knew? **They had to know something.**

Plus Haman's decree had already gone forth built upon an **already and ever-present anti-Semitism**.

Matthew 10:32 **Whosoever** therefore shall confess me before men, **him** will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:33 But **whosoever** shall deny me before men, **him** will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

## 3 Esther had to face her **fears**!

Esther 4:10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; Esther 4:11 **All** the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, **do know**, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, **there is one law** of his to put him to death, **except** such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: **but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days**.

Esther (already) lived on a knife's edge. She got this.

Will she go in?

- Persian law forbids it
- Jewish identity complicates it
- Xerxes's appetites confuse it
- Previous history demonstrates it (2:1)
- Haman's power (seemed to) seal it

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us **the spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Psalms 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Esther 8:3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. Esther 8:4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, Esther 8:5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: Esther 8:6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

## 4. Esther had to face her purpose!

Esther 4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. Esther 4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: **and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**

**The fork in the road! The defining moment! The critical juncture / event! The crucible!**

Esther 4:15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, Esther 4:16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; **and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.**

Esther 4:17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Proverbs 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: James 4:14 **Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.** James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Psalms 90:12 So teach us to number our days, That we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.