

A painting of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a brown robe, sitting and holding an open book. She is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background is a dark, textured landscape.

With Great Privilege,
Comes Great Responsibility

Esther 2:16-8:16

Esther

- Because Queen Vashti would not comply with King Xerxes request, he decided he needed a more submissive Queen.
- King Xerxes decided to have a beauty contest to pick his next wife.
- Since the Jews had assimilated into the Persian culture, Jewish women were probably included in the contest.
- Esther may not have been chosen if her heritage and background were known.
- Esther had unique qualities that made her admired by all who saw her.

Haman

- Haman's sole focus was to gain more power for himself.
- King Xerxes ordered everyone to pay Haman special honor by bowing down when he passed.
- Mordecai would not bow to him because Jewish people only bow in worship to the one true God.
- Haman was a descendant of Agag, king of the Amalekites, who were ancient enemies of God's people.
- When Haman learned that Mordecai was a Jew, he decided that all the Jews needed to be destroyed.
- Haman persuaded King Xerxes to sign a document that would allow the complete destruction of the Jews.
- Edicts of the king were known as the law of the Medes and Persians -- denoting something which cannot be altered.

Mordecai

- Mordecai learned of Haman's plan.
- Mordecai told Esther that she needed to speak with the king to persuade him to rescind his order.
- Esther began to fast and pray, and sent word to all the Jews that they should do the same.
- The entire fate of her people rested squarely on her shoulders.
- Esther put her concern for the lives of her own people above any concern for her own life.
- Esther turned to God for the support she needed to carry the plan forward.

Conclusion

- Our lives are no more and no less valuable than the lives of any other person.
- When we are in a position to help someone, we have an obligation to follow through.
- We are privileged to count ourselves among those who are saved by Christ.
- If it seems too tough, all we have to do is lean upon God, through whom all things are possible.