

Strong Tower Bible Study

Agenda

Lesson #8

Time 6:00pm -7:30pm

Topic: The Power of Faith & Fasting

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Scripture text: Esther 4:1-17

Mordecai Persuades Esther to Help

4 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. **2** But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. **3** In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. **5** Then Esther

summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

⁶ So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

⁹ Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you

and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Things to know:

- Esther held true to her beliefs and conviction
- Esther influenced others with her faith
- Esther was a beautiful woman-Esther 2:7
- It is possible the king knew Esther was a Jew
- Mordecai was Esther's cousin and caregiver she had no mother or father -Esther 2:7
- Esther's real name is Hadassah-Esther 2:7
- Esther put all her trust in God and expected those around her to do the same

Discussion Questions

1. What was the response of Mordecai and his fellow Jews ? (Vs 1-3)
Why? (Esther 3:8-9)
2. What was Esther's response to Mordecai's distress? How did he respond? (Vs 4-5) What does this tell you about Esther?
3. What are your thoughts about Hathak? (Vs 6) What has been the theme in the government of Esthers day and today? (Vs 7) Do you believe Mordecai still had influence with Esther? (Vs 8)
4. Looking at Ester's response what is her dilemma? (Vs 9-11) Why do you think the king has not seen her in 30 days?
5. How did Mordecai warn Esther and prophecy at the same time? (Vs 12-14)
6. What did Esther use as her weapon for this occasion? (Vs 15-16)
7. How important was Mordecai's obedience?

Faith in Action:

- Set an alarm on your phone to pray at 12:00 noon all week
- Do not over commit yourself to please others this week
- Take 15 minutes to sit quietly and reflect on -John 14:15
- Reach out to a young person and encourage them to be brave

Healthy Foods of the week: Figs (2 Kings 20:7) Dates (natural sweetener) Rosemary (heart healthy)

Challenge of the Week: Share your calendar with someone who seeks an interest in your faith (Follow the Holy Spirit). OR

Share your relationship with Jesus with two people

1 youth and 1 unhoused person.

Scripture Application:

Exodus 19:5-What does this tell us about God-Hebrew name (**Elohim**)- see Genesis 1:1 What is important to Him?

Deuteronomy 7:9-What do we learn from this passage about God- Hebrew name (**Yahweh**) or (**Jehovah**)

Closing Prayer