

***Esther: Saying Yes to God***  
***Esther Chapter 4***  
***March 23, 2022***

**Introduction:** We often find it easy to obey God when there is little risk or cost involved. However, when God prompts us to speak to a stranger about Christ, to take an unpopular position on a moral issue or to take a step of faith into the unknown, we often become indecisive.



Four centuries before Christ, Esther found herself at a fork in the road: she could offer herself as God's instrument or deny her identity as one of God's people. She was a young Jewish woman living in Susa, the capital of the Persian Empire, when the king deposed his queen. To find another queen, he held a beauty contest. Esther's cousin Mordecai, convinced her to conceal her Jewish nationality and to enter the contest. She was declared the winner and made queen of Persia.

Trouble began when Haman was made the king's right-hand man. And he determined to massacre the Jews in the empire because of Mordecai's refusal to bow down before him. He convinced the king to issue a royal edict and to fix a day on which all Jews would be annihilated. **Read Esther Chapter 4.**

**Review, Questions and Answers:**

1. How do Mordecai and the Jews in the province react to the edict of the king (vv.1-3)?
2. What steps does Esther take to comfort Mordecai and understand his distress (vv.4-5)?
3. Describe the message Mordecai gives Esther through the king's servant Hathach (vv.6-9)?
4. Esther is reluctant to heed Mordecai's exhortation (vv.10-11) because neither the king nor officials know she is a Jew. This could cost her the throne and her life. When have you been asked to do something that involved personal risk or cost? Explain?
5. What argument does Mordecai use to contend with Esther's hesitation to intervene on behalf of her people (vv.12-14)?
6. What does verse 14 reveal about Mordecai's understanding of God? How does he view Esther's hesitance to act?
7. How does Esther finally respond to Mordecai and ultimately to God (vv. 15-16)? What kind of help did she need to obey God?
8. Esther is graciously received by the King and effectively interceded on behalf of the Jews. How can her example encourage you to make better use of the opportunities God had given you?

**Reflect and Pray:**

- Mordecai asked: “And who knows but that you have come to the royal position for such a time as this?” Where has God placed you at this time in your life? What may be a few reasons for which God has placed you there?
- How does the support of Christians encourage you to say yes to God?

**Prayer:** *Dear God, I pray that when it is necessary that You give me boldness to faithfully speak and live for You. Amen.*

**Now or Later:** Read Acts 4:21-31. Study the prayer of the apostles as they faced threats and persecution. What can you learn from them?

**As you journey through this season of Lent:** *What spiritual discipline can I continue to improve upon?*

