

Life Even After: Esther the Diva

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God has a plan for your life, but there is much going on behind the scenes that you will never ever know. Trust that if God is at work creating his plan, he is not just working in you to bring it to pass, but he is working in others at the same time. Many people are plotless in why they are even on this planet, never realizing that their life was placed here for a purpose. Some realize it early and some never ever realize their purpose. Many get up every day, and go through the same routine without rhyme or reason of why they are even here doing what they are doing.

The History Behind the Book of Esther

- a) The Babylonians conquered the nation of Judah in 586 B.C.
- b) The Jews remained captive for over 50 years.
- c) In 539 B.C. the medo-persian empire conquered the Babylonians under the leadership of Cyrus.
- d) A year later, 538 B.C., God moved on Cyrus, the king of Persia to allow the people to go back home to Jerusalem. **(Ezra 1:1-4)**
- e) God had allowed his people to be captured and removed from the promise land because of disobedience.
- f) When their time of punishment was over, he stirred the heart of the king to let them go back to Jerusalem. He was saying that all my people can come back home.
- g) The book of Esther deals with another king named Xerxes, that began his reign in 486 B.C. These events happened more than 50 years after God used Cyrus as a mouthpiece.
- h) Xerxes throne was in the city of Susa rather than Jerusalem.
- i) This means that the Jews mentioned in the story including Mordecai and Esther had chosen to remain in the land of captivity instead of going home to the promise as God commanded.
- j) They had grown comfortable outside of God's will.
- k) The same thing can happen to us. We can keep getting farther and farther away that it seems impossible to ever get back on track.

The book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that doesn't have God's name in it, but the fingerprints of God are all the way through it. She would be considered a Diva. Her name means star.

The king (Ahasuerus) is having a party, and he calls his wife (Queen Vashti) to come out and parade in front of everyone to show off, and she refuses. When she refuses, he gets upset and says he will find another woman to be Queen. He made a rash decision because he had been drinking. He couldn't believe what he had done, but in Persia at that time, the law was that if a king made a decree, that no one could change it, even the king. He was stuck, so they decided to parade the beautiful young virgins of the kingdom in front of him. **This is where Esther comes into the scene. Her parents had died and she was raised by a relative named Mordecai.**

- The Bible says that she was pretty in face and form (not only did she have a pretty face, but she had a beautiful body).
- She was so pretty that when they brought all the ladies to stand before the king, Esther said you don't need to put any makeup on me (***Esther 2:3,15***)
- What makes her a Diva is that she is pretty and she knows it.

The Characters

- **Mordecai**- Esther's cousin (***Esther 2:19-23***); He saves the king from two of the servants that wanted to kill the king and it was written in the book of the Chronicles.
- **Haman**- He hates the Jews, and comes up with a plan to get rid of all Jews and gets the king to sign off on it. He doesn't like Mordecai (***Esther 3:2***) because he would not bow to Haman. (The king did not order it, he just had no respect for Haman.)

The Plea of Mordecai to Esther

Esther 4:8

When Mordecai hears of the decree, Mordecai sends a message to Esther. Esther had not told the king that she was a Jew, all he knew was that she was a pretty woman. Mordecai says now is the time for you to share who you really are for your people.

Esther's Response

Esther 4:11

She says that if I do that, then the king will kill me. But Mordecai said, they are going to kill you anyway, but God will spare us. So you need to take a risk. She made a couple of mistakes:

- 1) Forgetting where she had come from
- 2) Forgetting who gave her the blessing in the first place
- 3) Forgetting why she was placed there
- 4) She forgot she was an orphan

Don't forget, you have been blessed to be a blessing!

Mordecai's Rebuke

Esther 4:13

He is letting her know that just because you are living high and mighty now, that this thing is not going to come back and bite you.

(Verse 14) You must understand that while God has blessed you, God doesn't need you.

God has more than one way to get his plan accomplished. He wanted to use Esther, but He didn't have to have Esther. Maybe someone needs to be reminded that God wants to let you in on his process, and He wants you to be a part, but God doesn't need you.

Mordecai said, if God has to skip you because you were not available to him, he is still going to save us, and wipe you out, AND

(Verse 14) you need to be reminded that there was a reason that you have been selected, a reason that you were made as pretty as you are, there is a reason, and this is his kingdom. You have attained royalty, because he wants to use the platform that He has given you.

Example: Chad Varga has a son named Cameron. He is now pitching in professional baseball. When he was in high school, he had a stat at one time that out of 119 outs that he had as a pitcher, 95 of them were strike outs. He had 2 no hitters, 1 perfect game and several one hitter games. He has been blessed. His sister is named Kiersten, and she is one of the most sought after beach volleyball players in the country at just age 16. She is already on the US national team. Chad played professional basketball and his wife was a volleyball player. He always tells his kids, you have been blessed with athleticism, but it is only for a platform for God to use.

When you lose sight of connecting your blessing with God's purpose, you lose sight of ever being used by God.

Blessing- enjoying, experiencing and extending God's goodness (Biblical definition)

God has Divas in his kingdom- people that have gotten too big for God to use. When they didn't have anything, all they needed was God. But now that God has blessed them, they don't think they need him all that much. When someone has walked out of your life, you want all of God you can get until God

fills that void with someone else. Then you don't have time for God, because the pain is not that bad.

Esther Decides to Take a Risk

(Verse 16) Esther finally begins to get it, and she calls for a fast on her behalf. She had someone in her life that brought her to her senses. Esther needed to realize that it was not too late for God to use her, because **there is life even after.**

(Chapter 5)

The queen approaches the king, and requests that the king and Haman come to a banquet that she has prepared. They go, and she asked them to come back tomorrow, and she will make her request known at that time. That evening, Haman goes home and tells his family that Mordecai is not afraid of him. (Basically, the town isn't big enough for both of us.) They suggest that gallows be built and hang Mordecai. He agreed. **But the king could not sleep.**

GAMECHANGER- THE KING COULD NOT SLEEP.

(Isaiah 55:8-9) *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

God is so precise, that he is working the whole plan.

- 1) The king could not sleep.
- 2) He asked for something to read.
- 3) They brought the Chronicles, boring stuff. (God had to point them to that book.)
- 4) He sees the name Mordecai, and wants to know they have rewarded him for saving the king from the two men who wanted to kill him.
- 5) Haman has come to get permission to hang Mordecai, but before he could, the king has something else in mind.
- 6) He brings Haman in, and asked what should we do for someone who saves the kings life, and he replies, a robe, a horse, and a parade.
- 7) Haman thinks he is talking about him, and he says we should bless him big.
- 8) So the King tells him to go and get Mordecai, and bless him.
- 9) Haman is right in the middle of building gallows to hang Mordecai.

Don't try to pre-figure how God is going to fix something, you cannot figure God out and he doesn't want you to. He just wants you to trust him.

**Don't forget where you have come from, and many have.
Don't get comfortable living outside of God's will.
In order to be used by God or follow God, you will have to take a risk.
Faith is fear that has done its homework.**

Many don't surrender to the Lord and his plan for their life because they have it too good where they are. This plan that you think is so good will come back and bite you.