

Different Paths

Esther 4

Esther 4:1-17

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;

2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

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.

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 4:1-17 - continued

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.

6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.

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 4:1-17 - continued

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.

9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Esther 4:1-17 - continued

10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, 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.

12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

Esther 4:1-17 - continued

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.

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?

15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

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 4:1-17 - continued

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

Background

A. Queen Vashti removed from being queen (Esther 1)

B. Hadassah (Esther) selected as queen (Esther 2)

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.

C. Mordecai foils a assassination attempt (Esther 2)

D. Haman rises to power (Esther 3)

E. Haman bribes the king to make a decree to kill all the Jews in the empire

I. The Plight Of Mordecai (4:1-3)

A. His agony for a situation without hope (4:1)

Psalm 18:6

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

B. His agony that situation without any help (4:2)

Psalm 69:11-12

11 I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them.

12 They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.

I. The Plight Of Mordecai (4:1-3)

C. His agony for the despair caused to others (4:3)

Esther 3:6

And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

II. The Paths Taken By Esther (4:4-16)

A. To dismiss the problem (4:4)

1. It can't be that bad

2. We cannot make a big deal about this

Job 6:2

**Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my
calamity laid in the balances together!**

II. The Paths Taken By Esther (4:4-16)

B. To deny any ability to help (4:11)

1. Don't ask me to get involved

2. This can get me in trouble

1 John 3:17-18

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

II. The Paths Taken By Esther (4:4-16)

C. To determine to help (4:16)

1. A realization of being already involved (4:12)

2. A reality of the sovereignty of God (4:14)

Psalm 56:11

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

3. A resolve to follow through (4:16)

Acts 5:29

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

III. The Products Of Faith (4:17)

A. Encouraged others to action (4:17)

B. Brought deliverance

Hebrews 11:33-34

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

III. The Products Of Faith (4:17)

C. Left a lasting legacy

Esther 9:22

As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.



*Which Path Are
You On?*