

Facing the Crisis **Esther 4:1-5:8**

I. Impact of the Edict – 3:15-4:3

1. King & Haman celebrated – 3:15
They dealt with a perceived problem
Haman convinced the king of "these people"
Annihilation of Jews was the answer
2. City of Susa was in confusion – 3:15
People were perplexed, in turmoil
3. Mordecai cried in deep mourning – 4:1-2
Tore his clothes, put on sackcloth & ashes
Cried with a loud and bitter cry
Went against the law to the king's gate – 2
4. Jews mourned in every province - 3

II. Esther's Response – 4:4-8

1. She was told of Mordecai's behavior – 4
She was deeply distressed (illegal & shameful)
She sent clothes which he refused
2. Sent Hathach to discover the cause – 5
3. Mordecai explained the new law – 6-7
Haman's plan to destroy all Jews
Told her the exact sum of money he offered
4. Sent her a copy of the decree – 8
Gave her evidence that she could examine
Told her to plead for her people to the king

III. Esther's Reluctance – 9-11

1. She received Mordecai's order – 9-10
And responded promptly with caution
2. She explained her reluctance – 11
Everyone in empire knows the law
No one enters king's court without being called
Those who do are under the death penalty
Only exception is King's grace (extended scepter)
Fact is: She has not been called for 30 days

IV. Esther's Submission – 12-17

1. Mordecai's Warning – 12-13
Don't think you will escape this law – 13
Just because you are in the palace (As Queen)
You are still a Jew under threat of death
2. Mordecai's Challenge – 14
God will bring deliverance some way
Perhaps He put you there to meet this need
3. Esther accepts the challenge – 15-17
She requests that they fast 3 days for her - 16
She and her young women will also fast
"I will go to the king" "If I perish, I perish"

V. Esther's Courage – 5:1-8

1. After 3 days fasting Esther acts – 1
Courage is choosing to act in midst of fear
Dressed in her royal robes she approaches
With respect she stands in the court waiting
2. King extended his golden scepter – 2-3
Promised to grant her request, to ½ of kingdom
2. Request of Esther – 4-8
Hesitant as she is questioning King's law
She invited the King & Haman to dinner – 4-7
At dinner King asks about her request
Promises to reveal her request tomorrow - 8

VI. God's Timing - 8

1. In our study we see God's hand at work
God sovereignly works to do His will
2. Esther is hesitant but this is God's hand
She dares to put the king off until tomorrow
Everything will change by tomorrow
3. There are times when we need to wait
We need to be sensitive to God's time