

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

www.loyalheartministries.com

If It Pleases the King...A Study of Esther

A Study for Women by *Stephanie Little*

Our time with Esther is coming to a close. I'm sad to see her go! I pray that we'll all take the lessons we have learned about our God in His Word and make application starting today. As you read the last two chapters this week, look for Him. Think about Who He is as you have seen Him work through the details of this book. Have a wonderful week of study and learning more about our God!

- 1) Read through the last two chapters of Esther. Let's focus on verses 1-5 of chapter 9. The Jews had been preparing for the thirteenth day of the month of Adar for at least 8 months. When the day for their destruction arrived, they were ready to fight. Describe the progression of events in verses 1-5. How is this miraculous victory a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 17:7? Find and copy another reference that speaks of God's promise to preserve (or care for) His people.
- 2) Read verses 6-10 of chapter 9. In the capital alone, the Jews killed _____ men. The names of whose sons are listed in this passage? Why are they listed?
It was permitted by the decree of Mordecai for the Jews to take the belongings of their slaughtered enemy; but they didn't touch any of it. What message would be given to the people by the Jews' willingness to leave the wealth behind?
In following God's purpose and plan for our lives, there will always be opportunities to become distracted by the "good" things of the world (power, money, praise). How can these distractions lead us away from completing the mission God has given us?
- 3) The king receives a report about the destruction of the Jewish enemy in the kingdom and he has a conversation with Esther in which he basically asks what more he can do for her. What two things does she request in verses 11-13?
Esther's requests are granted in verse 14. Haman's sons are hanged and the Jews in the capital gather to take out any more of their remaining enemies on day two of the fight. Read verses 15-19. While the Jews in the capital fought an extra day, what did the Jews in the other provinces do?
What was the total number killed in all the provinces?
In verses 20-32, Esther and Mordecai establish a holiday of celebration and remembrance called Purim. How does Mordecai describe the purpose of the celebration in verses 21-22?
Why was the establishment of this holiday so important to the Jewish people?
Is it important for us to mark "days of victory" given by God in our lives? Record any days of victory God has given you and take a moment to praise Him for those days.

- 4) Read the last chapter of Esther and think about the two people God used to accomplish His purpose. How is Mordecai like Jesus?
What main character trait did God build in Esther and then use for His glory?
What main character trait is God building in you that He can use for His glory?
- 5) The book of Esther is certainly a narrative account about God using one woman to accomplish a great purpose; however, the main point of the book's place in Scripture is to demonstrate the providence and power of God Himself. Although God's name is never mentioned in the book, we see His hand moving throughout the chapters. How is His method of deliverance different in Esther's situation compared to Moses and the Children of Israel's deliverance from Egypt?

God demonstrated His power and might in grand and obvious ways as He delivered His children from the land of Egypt. The plagues and miracles shouted God's power. Although God moves quietly and in a less obvious way in this book, He still displays His power in the deliverance of the Jews in Esther's time. Sometimes His power is displayed in mighty and obvious ways today. But, for the most part, He moves quietly and it is our responsibility to seek Him. Look for His hand today. Praise Him for Who He is and for His sovereign grace in your life.

As we finish up the study of Esther, what have you learned about God?
What will you do with what you've learned? How will you be changed?