

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

www.loyalheartministries.com

If it Pleases the King...An Eight Week Study of Esther

A Study for Women by *Stephanie Little*

Key Verse: *"And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter."*
Esther 2:7

Read chapter 2 of Esther this week. As you read, begin to think about what it would have been like for such a young girl, an orphan, to be placed in the setting of the palace, given everything desired for comfort and beauty. Think about her life before this monumental change, as well as the possibilities for her future. Keep in mind, every event that unfolds in Esther's life is in complete control of the Sovereign God, the same God Who is in control of your life.

Chapter 2 opens with remembrance, realization and regret. The king remembers Vashti, realizes the permanent consequences of his rash decision, and seems to regret his choice. God is working.

Week Two – The Process

- 1) How do the servants seek to pacify the distress of King Ahasuerus? How is God's Providential Hand evident in the plan that is presented to the king? Does God use unsaved, even evil people to fulfill His plan? List one other place in Scripture where you see this truth unfold.
- 2) We are introduced to Esther in verses 5-7. What is significant about her? What about her uncle? We witness God's protection very early in the life of Esther (Hadassah). In reading verse 7, we see God placing the little orphaned girl into Mordecai's family. We also see God's preparation of Esther for the position He would place in her future. He made her "lovely and beautiful." Read Psalm 139:13-16. How do these verses show God's purposeful, unique, beautiful creation of each individual?
- 3) Verses 8-14 explain the process of the king's search for a new queen. Look at the details. There is a great emphasis placed on the preparation. What preparation did each woman go through before her presentation to the king? What

happened to her after the presentation? As Esther's turn approached, what were the two possibilities for her future? How would Esther's faith in God help her make it through this time of preparation?

- 4) Don't miss the significance of the details found in verses 9-11. Let's take a closer look. Esther found _____ in the sight of Hegai, the custodian, or caretaker, of the women. She was elevated to the _____ place in the house of the women. God was at work here.
- 5) Verse 10 shows the obedient heart of Esther as she kept her heritage silent. _____ instructed her not to reveal it. A readily obedient heart is a characteristic God expects in each of us. Are there any areas of your life that you need to submit in obedience to the Lord? If so, pray now and ask Him to give you a heart like Esther's, quick to obey in every aspect of life.

God has created each of us unique and with a purpose to be used in bringing honor and glory to His name. He is at work in the circumstances of life fulfilling the truth of Romans 8:28. While some things God allows in our life may not seem "good" to us at the time, He is working all things to our benefit, both now and for eternity. Take comfort in knowing the God Who created you loves you and calls you for His kingdom work just as He called Esther from obscurity and placed her in a palace to fulfill the purpose of the Eternal King. Praise the Lord!

We'll continue with chapter two next week as we discover God's choice for the new queen!