

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

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

A Study for Women by *Stephanie Little*

Key Verse: “Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king’s palace, across from the king’s house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.” *Esther 5:1*

This is it! Esther makes her move and goes against everything that seems sane and rational. She breaks through the bonds of Persian law on behalf of her people and in the name of her God. As you read this week, ask God to show you what bonds He may be asking you to break through in His name.

Let’s jump right in and read all of chapter five of Esther.

- 1) Go back and read verse 1 again. What did Persian law say about anyone entering the king’s presence unsummoned?

Describe Esther’s actions in verse 1:

The Hebrew word for “stood” in this verse implies “continuing,” “enduring,” “standing fast, firm,” “standing up,” and “tarrying.” That’s HUGE! Think about Esther standing there. She should be fearful, trembling, shrinking down in the presence of the king. Yet, what does this one word with all its implications show about her courage, determination and purpose?

- 2) Please read verse 2. What happens when the king sees Esther? Remember Who is in control here. Take a look at Proverbs 21:1 and copy it here:

How does the truth of this proverb apply to Esther’s circumstances?

- 3) Verses 3-8 describe Esther’s wise steps in bringing her plea to the king. What type of wisdom do you see in Esther’s second invitation to the king and Haman? Why not just tell the king about Haman right away?

Is there wisdom in waiting, carefully timing our actions, responses and requests? How might Isaiah 40:31 and Psalm 32:8 apply to waiting in the middle of a difficult situation?

- 4) The books of Proverbs and James both speak of wisdom. Take a little time this week and do a quick study on the word “Wisdom.” Use e Sword (free online concordance) or the *Strong’s*

Concordance. Take notes on what God has to say about wisdom. How does Esther demonstrate godly wisdom? How did she gain this wisdom?

- 5) There is such a contrast between Haman's pride and Mordecai's humility, as well as between Esther's timely wisdom and Haman's rash rush to wickedness. Describe his pride and wickedness as you read through verses 9-14.

We live in a world that is full of the same kind of pride and wickedness seen in Haman, how can we take a stand and move with wisdom like Esther?

My prayer is that you (and I) will be inspired to seek God more and stand in faith as we live in a fallen world. Esther's strength did not come from her position as queen or even her heritage as a Jew. It came from her time spent seeking the leading and direction of God through prayer and fasting. Ask God to strengthen you today in His power and His might. Then, take a stand in His name, confident that He will prevail.