

The Queen of Beauty and Courage

Day One – Made to be a Queen

Today's reading: Page 275 through break on page 279

This reading covers: Esther 1-2

Summary: God's sovereignty puts Esther on the throne.

Consider this:

What were some of the seemingly "chance" circumstances that led to Esther becoming queen? Have there been circumstances in your life that at the time seemed inconsequential? Did they turn out to be pivotal in your growth as a Christian or your opportunity to advance God's kingdom? Think about the places where you currently connect with others ~ in the work place, your neighborhood, your church, your circle of friends, even your family. Could God have placed you there for a reason? Are you open and willing to be used by God for his purpose?

For further reading: Ephesians 1:1-14

Prayer:

Lord, help me take notice of relationships and events you place before me. Help me discern if circumstances are indeed opportunities for your purpose. Help me see your hand in everything I do. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Day Two – Enemy

Today's reading: Break on page 279 through break on page 282

This reading covers: Esther 3-4

Summary: Haman sets out to destroy God's people.

Consider this:

Mordecai refused to bow down to (worship) anyone or anything besides the God of Israel. What are some situations today that might call for you to make a public declaration of your faith? Upon learning of the king's death decree, the Jews banded together in mourning, fasting and prayer. Why do tragedies unite people? What are some things we can do to support our fellow Christians in need?

For further reading: Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 3:13-17

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for the never ending love and protection you give to those who call you Lord. Give us the conviction of Mordecai to stand firm in our faith. Help us to be a church of compassionate believers striving to make a difference. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior, Amen.

Day Three – A Time as This

Today's reading: Break on page 282 through end of chapter

This reading covers: Esther 5-9

Summary: Esther's courage results in the salvation of her people.

Consider this:

Have you ever wondered why God might select you to accomplish his will? Does the success story of Esther ~ who had the disadvantage of being a female at a time in history when females had little importance, an orphan and a Jew living in exile in a foreign land ~ make you reconsider? God chose Esther to save an entire nation, and he still uses the weak and the insignificant, armed with his strength and protection, to change the world. What are you facing right now that demands courage? As a Christ-follower, where does your inner strength and courage come from? If God has faith in you to do great things for him, who are you to argue?

For further reading: Psalm 121; Isaiah 41:8-13; Acts 4:1-13; Romans 8:28-39

Prayer:

Dear Father in heaven, you know my fears, my weaknesses and my worries. I don't know how I can face these obstacles alone. Please be with me. Make me brave. Even though I feel insignificant, use me for your purpose. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.