

Esther 2:5-7

At that time there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and was a descendant of Kish and Shimei.⁶ His family^[a] had been among those who, with King Jehoiachin^[b] of Judah, had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar.⁷ This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.

- **God is working even when we don't see Him.**

Esther 2:8-9

Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. **9**She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food.

Esther 2:15

And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

Esther 2:17

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- **God's methods may vary, but His purposes do not.**
- **God's solution may not be anticipated, but his plans will prevail.**

Esther 4:12-14

12When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, **13**he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. **14**For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther's Words of Encouragement

- 1. When you don't understand, stay steady.**

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

- 2. When you realize God's purpose for you life, feel empowered.**

Philippians 4:13

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- 3. Taking a risk is easier when you know God is in control.**

Esther 4:15-16

15Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: **16**"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

- 4. Seize the Moment!**

- **See the needs around you.**
- **Recognize the opportunities**
- **Find the courage within.**
- **Trust in the Lord.**