

Esther Decides to Help Her People

by Deaconess Hannah Becker

What if you don't say anything at this time? Then help for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your family will die. Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for a time just like this." Then Esther sent a reply to Mordecai. She said, "Go. Gather together all the Jews who are in Susa. And fast for my benefit. Don't eat or drink anything for three days. Don't do it night or day. I and my attendants will fast just as you do. Then I'll go to the king. I'll do it even though it's against the law. And if I have to die, I'll die."

-Esther 4:14-16 NIRV

Mordecai heard Haman's plan to kill all people of Jewish faith. Mordecai knew he needed to do something to stop him, so he asked Queen Esther for help.

- Think about times you have needed help. Who are some people you ask to help you?
- Who are some people who ask you for help?

Mordecai asked Queen Esther to go to the king and ask him to save the Jewish people. But in Bible times, it was against the law to speak to the king unless you were invited to come to him. If you went to him and spoke without an invitation, you could be killed as punishment.

- How do you think Queen Esther felt about her Uncle Mordecai's plan?

Queen Esther was afraid. She did not want to die; but she did want to protect her people. So she came up with a plan and decided to be brave. She went to the king, helped him see she could be trusted, and eventually asked him to spare the lives of the Jewish people.

- What are some things you are afraid of?
- Name a time when you were scared.
- Who do you turn to for help when you are afraid?

Most people have a few things that scare them. For example, some people are afraid of heights or spiders. Other people may be afraid to try something new or move to a new home. Esther was afraid to go talk to the king because she knew she could be punished. But Esther believed it was the right thing to do. She knew God was with her and He would give her strength when she was afraid. God will help us through hard times, too. He tells us in the Bible to not be afraid! God has promised us He will always be with us. Knowing this, we can be brave like Esther.

- Have you ever had to be brave? If so, when?
- Did you ask God to help you?

Prayer

Dear God,

Sometimes things in our lives can scare us.

Be with us and help us be brave when we are afraid.

Help us turn to You in times of trouble.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

