

**Submission to a Mission:
Getting Over "Save Your Own Skin" Syndrome
July 19, 2015**

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." - Jesus

Matthew 16:25

1. The Despair Of The Jews - Esther Agrees to Help the Jews.

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them.

Esther 4:1-4

- **The Despair Of Mordecai** - Tearing his clothes. Putting on sackcloth Ashes were poured upon his head. Weeping and loud wailing. No one could approach the King in this manner.
- **The Despair of the Multitude** - There were an estimated **fifteen million Jews in the empire at this time.**
And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. **Esther 4:3**
- **The Despair Of Her Majesty-**
 - **Jews Were Under The Sentence Of Death. It Was The Law.**
 - **Today Men Without Jesus Christ Are Also Under The Sentence Of Death.** God's law demands that death is the price for sin. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* **Romans 6:23**

We are condemned without Christ. *He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

John 3:18

Fig Leaf Religion will not work!

- Men don't need *reforming*, they need *redemption*.
- We don't need the *improvement of SELF*, but the *illumination by the SPIRIT* because the god of this world has blinded men's hearts.
- We don't need to *amend Ourselves*, we need *acquittal from God..*
- We don't need *remodeling*, we need *repentance*.
- We don't need *primping*, we need *pardoning*.
- We don't need *mending*, we need *mercy*.
- We don't need to *be better*, we need to *be bathed in the blood of Christ*.
- We don't need the *correcting of self*, we need *contrition and transformation*.

The answer to the sin problem is the Lord Jesus Christ! Any other way of salvation is *weak, bleak, sleek, and stupid*.

- *It is weak because it won't work.* There is only one way.
- *It is bleak because it's barren.* It leaves one empty inside.
- *It is sleek because it tries to smooth and gloss over sin problems, but it is still there.*
- *It is Stupid* because those who trust any other way than Christ will be deceived, slighted, and still under condemnation. I had rather have Jesus!

2. The Decree Is Revealed - *Then Esther called Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this was. 6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was in front of the king's gate. 7 And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews. 8 He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people. 9 So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.*

Esther 4:5-9

Esther is puzzled. Why is Mordecai mourning?

Obscure Man- Hatach (HAY-tack) is the Persian word **Hataka** which means "good." He is the good messenger and is a picture of a Christian's responsibility today. **We are to be good messengers too, bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost.**

- **Little boy** had 5 loaves & 2 fishes that the Lord used to feed 5000.
- **Unknown men** lifted Paul over the Damascus Wall in a basket.
- **Slave girl** told General Namaan to go see a prophet of God in order to be healed.

"GREAT DOORS SWING ON SMALL HINGES." Are you little enough to be used of God?

3. The Danger Of Disturbances - The Throne Room was beautiful, but access to the throne was limited.

Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days." 12 So they told Mordecai Esther's words. Esther 4:10-12

As Christians, We Can Come Boldly Unto Heaven's Throne Of Grace. *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:14-16

The Golden Scepter Of The King was a picture of Christ. Deliverance from death was in the Scepter of the King.

Shebit (scepter) was used to refer to the Messiah, the Savior, in the book of Numbers. *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.*

Numbers 24:17

4. The Destiny Is Certain - And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:13-14

- **She was worried about the danger of the throne room.**
- **Mordecai reminds her she is already in danger.** Mordecai assures her that deliverance is certain whether she gets involved or not.

If we refuse to obey God, He can lay us aside and use someone else to do the job. We will lose opportunities, reward, blessings, and joy. **John Mark left the mission field and God raised up Timothy for the task.**

The Lord can also DISCIPLINE US UNTIL WE SURRENDER TO HIS WILL. A classic example is Jonah.

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment. You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.

Isaiah 54:17

Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;²⁶ For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

Proverbs 3:25-26

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

James 4:17

Indecision is not an option! Joseph saw God's hand in his life when he was exalted too. *But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

Genesis 50:20

5. The Directions Of The Queen - Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise..."

Esther 4:15, 16a

GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST

6. The Submissiveness Of Esther - ...And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" 17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

Esther 4:16b - 17

Esther had an attitude of submission to a mission. She said, "**If I perish, I perish.**" This same attitude was found among the lepers during a siegewhere cannibalism was occurring in the book of 2 Kings.

If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die.'

2 Kings 7:4

We also see this same attitude in Paul in the book of Acts. *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

Acts 20:24

The **three hebrews** had the same attitude when they told Nebuchadnezzar they would not bow to the image, no matter what he would do to them. *If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

Daniel 3:17-18

Esther did not have the "Watch Out For Number one" attitude or the "Save My Own Skin" Syndrome. The character of Esther was revealed by her affliction. She was committed to the task no matter what happened!