

Meditation on Esther 4

By Chantel Bink

Esther must have been terrified so many times: being brought by commissioners to the palace for beauty treatments, being moved into the harem, being made queen. All of these are things that could totally freak a young girl out. She was also frightened when her uncle sent word to her about the edict Haman convinced the king to sign, which would annihilate the Jewish people, and his suggestion (well, maybe order) that she go talk to him. She basically said no, I'm not capable, and who could blame her?

But how often do we do this? I'm not capable of doing this or that. I'm not capable of doing God's work. Mordecai's answer to Esther is much the same as God's is to us. He says "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 royal position for



such a time as this?" (4:14).

God is capable—perfectly capable—of doing his work without us, but the blessing we would have received will be removed from us if he does. God puts us in situations that provide us the access to the work, the ability (through him) to do it, the support to encourage us here on earth, and the free will to decide if we are willing to carry it out. Really he does the work for us; we just have to make the choice.



Esther agreed to do her work. She put her faith out front and prayed and fasted and fasted and prayed for three days and had her people and servants do the same. She knew she couldn't do it alone. She needed God and the human support network he had provided to approach a husband who often acted irrationally when angry. I'm sure she was still scared but she did it. She acted on God's direction and it went well just as God had planned! It was a God-sized job that he had asked of her and she allowed him to do it through her, and received a blessing for her and her people because she did.

The next time we are called to do God's work, we should consider Esther and her faith: "if I perish, I perish." God's got this; he just wants to give us the opportunity to be used for his cause. It's exciting to be used! **We may not be capable but he definitely is!**



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