

A QUEEN RISKS HER LIFE (Courage)



THEME: Queen Esther (Courage)

Scripture: From Esther 4, 7

Key Verse: **Psalm 31:24 (New International Reader's Version)**

**²⁴ Be strong, all of you who put your hope in the Lord.
Never give up.**

SCRIPTURE TO SHARE:

Esther was chosen to be the Queen of Persia. She was Jewish and had not told anyone her background. Haman, a person of high rank in the kingdom, organized an evil plot to destroy all the Jews. Esther's cousin Mordecai warned her by sending a messenger with the news.

Esther Chapter 4 (NIRV)

¹ Mordecai found out about everything that had been done. So he tore his clothes. He put on black clothes. He sat down in ashes. Then he went out into the city. He sobbed out loud. He cried bitter tears. ² But he only went as far as the palace gate. That's because no one who was dressed in black clothes was allowed to go through it.

³ All of the Jews were very sad. They didn't eat anything. They sobbed and cried. Many of them put on black clothes. They were lying down in ashes. They did all of those things in every territory where the king's order and law had been sent.

⁴ Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came to her. They told her about Mordecai. So she became very troubled. She wanted him to take his black clothes off. So she sent him other clothes to wear. But he wouldn't accept them. ⁵ Then Esther sent for Hathach. He was one of the king's eunuchs. He had been appointed to take care of her. She ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai. She wanted to know why he was so upset.

⁶ So Hathach went out to see Mordecai. He was in the open area in front of the palace gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He told him about the exact amount of money Haman had promised to add to the royal treasures. He said Haman wanted it to be used to pay some men to destroy the Jews.

⁸ Mordecai also gave Hathach a copy of the order. It commanded people to wipe out the Jews. The order had been sent from Susa.

Mordecai told Hathach to show the order to Esther. He wanted him to explain it to her. He told him to try and get her to go to the king. He wanted her to beg for mercy. He wanted her to make an appeal to the king for her people.

⁹ Hathach went back. He reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then Esther directed him to give an answer to Mordecai. She told him to say, ¹¹ "There is a certain law that everyone knows about. All of the king's officials know about it. The people in the royal territories know about it. It applies to any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner courtyard without being sent for. It says they must be put to death. But there is a way out. Suppose the king reaches out his gold rod toward them. Then their lives will be spared. But 30 days have gone by since the king sent for me."

¹² Esther's words were reported to Mordecai. ¹³ Then he sent back an answer. He said, "You live in the king's palace. But don't think that just because you are there you will be the only Jew who will escape. ¹⁴ 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."

¹⁵ Then Esther sent a reply to Mordecai. She said, ¹⁶ "Go. Gather together all of 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."

¹⁷ So Mordecai went away. He carried out all of Esther's directions.

Esther 7 (New International Reader's Version)

Haman Is Put to Death

¹ So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. ² They were drinking wine on the second day. The king again asked, "What do you want, Queen Esther? I'll give it to you. What do you want me to do for you? I'll even give you up to half of my kingdom."

³ Then Queen Esther answered, "King Xerxes, I hope you will show me your favor. I hope you will be pleased to let me live. That's what I want. Please spare my people. That's my appeal to you.

⁴ "My people and I have been sold to be destroyed. We've been sold to be killed and wiped out. Suppose we had only been sold as male and female slaves. Then I wouldn't have said anything. That kind of suffering wouldn't be a good enough reason to bother you."

⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is the man who has dared to do such a thing? And where is he?"

⁶ Esther said, "The man hates us! He's our enemy! He's this evil Haman!"

Then Haman was terrified in front of the king and queen.

⁷ The king got up. He was burning with anger. He left his wine and went out into the palace garden.

But Haman realized that the king had already decided what he was going to do to him. So he stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

⁸ The king returned from the palace garden to the dinner hall. Just then he saw Haman falling on the couch where Esther was lying.

The king shouted, "Will he even rape the queen? Is he going to rape her while she's right here with me in the palace?"

As soon as the king finished speaking, his men covered Haman's face.

⁹ Then Harbona said, "There's a pole standing near Haman's house. He has gotten it ready for Mordecai. Mordecai is the one who spoke up to help you. Haman had planned to have him put to death. He was going to have the pole stuck through his body. Then he was going to set it up at a place where it would be 75 feet above the ground." Harbona was one of the officials who attended the king.

The king said to his men, "Put Haman to death! Stick the pole through his body! Set it up where everyone can see it!" ¹⁰ So they did. And they used the pole Haman had gotten ready for Mordecai. Then the king's anger calmed down.

TALKING ABOUT IT:

1. What might have happened to Esther if the king wouldn't have extended his scepter to her?
2. Mordecai reminded Esther that she, too, was a Jew and would die. What wonderful opportunity did he present to Esther?
3. In the book of Esther, we never see God's name mentioned, but yet we see Him working on behalf of the Jewish people. Esther and her people went before God in prayer...believing God would be their help and deliverer. No matter how silent we feel God is, He is always there, always seeing, and we can be assured that He is willing to be our help and to give us the courage to stand strong when it is needed.
4. What choice! Die because of the order or die because the king wouldn't accept her presence in the throne room. It took a lot of courage for Esther to go before the king. Think of someone you know or have read about who showed a lot of courage in the face of danger. What was the choice he or she had to face? How did the situation turn out?
5. Talk about the word "courage." It means being brave or being firm about doing what you feel must be done no matter what faces you. It is doing what you know what God wants you to do even when others say something different knowing God will be your help.
6. What is a prayer that you can say when you have something hard to do?



Esther took the risk even though she knew things might not work out as she planned. Think of a situation where you might need to go against someone to take a stand for right. Some examples you can use are:

When bigger kids are hassling a smaller kid and you need to step in. What would you do?

When someone wants to steal a candy bar and you don't want to be a part of the action. What would you do?

When a friend wants to cheat on a test and you don't think its right. Draw a picture of what you would do.



*Brave Queen Esther went to the king and begged for
the lives of her people. Esther 7:1-10*