

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.
Intergenerational Women's Ministry
St. Matthew AME Church
Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher
28 November 2020

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**



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All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer - Esther
Pages 32-34

AWARENESS

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“And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

Mordecai to Esther
Book of Esther 4:14b (NIV)

Esther

- Persian name given to Hadassah which means “a star”.
- She is a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin.
- Name change may indicate the type of beauty the once captive Queen was famous for.

Family Connection

- Born to a family that preferred to remain in the land of captivity rather than return to Jerusalem.
- Mordecai, a palace official, was her guardian who loved her as his own when her parents died (she was his sisters' child).
- Her marriage, a Jewess to the King was against Persian law which held one of the royal line must marry a wife belonging to the seven great Persian families.
- What does it reveal about her character and attitude that she obeyed Mordecai not only when she was a part of the harem but also when she became queen?

Peculiar Feature

- The Book of Esther, like Song of Solomon, shares the distinction of not mentioning God or any divine name once throughout its pages. When can there be an absence of God being mentioned nor prayer or sacrifice or Mosaic law?
- The overruling providence of God in bringing Esther to the throne for such a time says God may appear as if He is hiding Himself, but seen or unseen, He accomplishes that which is according to His will.

Esther Is Chosen

- Because the courageous Vashti was deposed, Esther is chosen to succeed her (this takes about 4 years).
- The combined wisdom of Mordecai and Esther's courage became the means of lightening the load of the Jews under Persian rule.

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- Haman, the chief court favorite, plots to destroy all the Jews by tricking the king into issuing an edit. What was, were his issues?
- Mordecai learns of the plot, informs Esther who has the people to fast with her, goes before the king uninvited which was punishable by death.
- She invites the king and Haman to two banquets upon which she reveals her nationality and Haman's plot to kill all the Jews to the king who after witnessing what he thought to be an attack on the queen has Haman hanged.
- Although an edit could not be undone, her actions led to another edit which gave permission for the Jews to defend themselves thus saving them from genocide.
- The Book of Esther is read every year at the Festival of Purim held on the 14th day of Adar, sometime between February and March, commemorating the foiling of the plot to massacre the Jews.

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Lessons Learned

- She kept her pledge.
- She clung to, although hidden for a while, her despised but honorable dear patriotism won for her nation a great deliverance and God used her as an instrument of His providence for the working out of a glorious purpose.
- No matter our circumstances or environment, there are magnificent and unparalleled opportunities of serving God and a needy world that Angels envy.
- Seek divine guidance in times of difficulty (4:15-17).
- To value and seek cooperation of fellow believers (such as when?).
- To acknowledge God as the author of all mercies.
- There is such a thing as righteous retribution (Haman).
- dm saw her (lusted after her) and "took her, lay with her and defiled her." V34:2
- "Took" implies what?
- Had Dinah been content to remain a "keeper of home" a terrible massacre would have been averted.
- Her desire for novelty and forbidden company spelled disaster.

Meaning for Today

- God can work behind the scene for deliverance.
- God, no matter how bleak things look, has not abandoned us and is able to reverse any circumstance for His good.
- We must focus not on the current situation but how the story will end.
- Our own power and influence are gifts from God that must be used responsibly for the benefit of God's people and creation – not for self-gratification!

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SKILL

Step Ten of Twelve: Prioritize

And He said to His disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?" Luke 12:22-34 (ESV)



100% =
 _____% for Work/School
 _____% for Health
 _____% for Relationships
 _____% for God
 _____% for Community/Recreation
 _____% for Daily Living

100% =
 _____% for Me
 _____% for Me
 _____% for Me
 _____% for Me
 _____% for Me
 _____% for Me

Priority
 ___ Work/School
 ___ Health
 ___ Relationships
 ___ God
 ___ Community
 ___ Daily Living Well

Obstacle	Opportunity
1. Physical Exercise	
2. Mental Health	
3. Socializing (Friends)	
4. Intimacy	
5. Pause (Just Me)	

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Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on gifts of power and influence and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

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