

Esther

God's Silent Sovereignty

When Life Feels Out of Control

Esther 2:1-18

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / June 12, 2022

God is in control of who is in control. He always has been, He is right now, and He always will be!

I. **God's Plan Is in Place Even When You Think Your Life Has Been Derailed by Events You Couldn't Control**

Do you feel like other people, powers, decisions, and circumstances have all determined and dictated for you the place where you are today and the person you are today?

- You may have troubling stories about situations at work.
- You may be living with the pain of a failed friendship.
- You may have a painful story to tell about the family.
- You may be overwhelmed by the direction of our culture, country, and world.

A silent and unseen God is still working all things together for His glory and our good, even when we don't see His hand or hear His voice.

A. **Mordecai Was Living a Life that Was Chosen for Him**

Esther 2:5-6 “Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjamite ⁶ who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.”

It would be an understatement to say his life has not worked out the way he thought it would. He's now a second or third generation exile who's known nothing but life in a strange and foreign land.

B. **Esther's Life Just Went from Bad to Worse**

Esther 2:8 “So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.”

Esther 2:16 “...Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus...”

Between Mordecai and Esther, there are five passive verbs that describe what's happened to them [v. 6 “carried away” 3x, v. 8 “taken”, v. 16 “taken”]. This captures what life feels like for someone who's been caught up and swept along by circumstances that are beyond their control.

Don't make the mistake of thinking this might have been attractive to her as a way out of poverty and up into the palace. Women of the king would be forcefully taken from their homes and confined to the harem for the rest of their lives. They would live in splendor, but be desolate and lonely, cut off from the rest of the world and any dreams or plans that they or their parents had for their lives.

The book of Esther is in the Bible for us today so that we'll know God is with us and is working in and through us, even when we don't hear anything spectacular or see anything miraculous that would affirm His presence and power.

"God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of 3 of them."

~ John Piper

Are you wondering where God is and what good can come from anything you're going through right now?

Our God is just as intimately involved in the mundane as He is the miraculous because He delights in the ordinary as much as the extraordinary.

II. God's Favor Can Find You in the Midst of Unlovely and Unlikely Places

Three times in this passage we're told that Esther was finding favor or grace in the eyes of those around her:

Esther 2:9 "And the young woman pleased him and won his favor..."

Esther 2:15 "...now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her."

Esther 2:17 "The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins..."

The author of Esther introduces a theme that you'll see throughout this book: favor and grace on Esther in the eyes of people who should despise her.

This unseen and silent God is certainly not idle, but is on the move sovereignly turning the hearts of powerful people towards this young girl to accomplish His purposes!

Genesis 39:21 "But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

Daniel 1:9 "And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs."

We have something Mordecai, Esther, Daniel, and Joseph didn't have! We have the Spirit of God living in us and the promises of God that are for us because of our resurrected Savior!

See Romans 8:26-31

III. There's a Better King Coming!

Far above King Ahasuerus is King Jesus! Unlike Ahasuerus, King Jesus has not been removed from His throne.

Ahasuerus died, was buried, and is worshipped by no one, but Jesus died and rose again – conquering sin, Satan, and hell. Ahasuerus' kingdom came to an end, but the kingdom of Jesus is an unshakable kingdom that has no end!

See Psalm 2:1-12