

GOD'S MASTERPIECE

“...And who knows whether you have not come
to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Esther 4:14b

(ESV)

LESSON 5

Can One Person Make a Difference?

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Lesson 5

Esther 4:1-16

Can One Person Make a Difference?

INTRODUCTION

A. What can **one person** do?

"I am only one. But I am still one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."
Edward Hale

B. What are some **examples** of extraordinary differences made by **one** ordinary person?

LESSONS LEARNED IN MOURNING

A. What was the **situation**?

B. Is it appropriate to mourn?

1. It is a time of **unity**.
2. It is a time of **release**.
3. It is a time of **dependence** on **God**.
4. It is a time to **prepare** for **action**.

ESTHER GOES INTO ACTION

A. What was Esther's first **response**?

1. She responds with **empathy**.
2. She responds with a "**quick fix**."
3. She responds with **getting** more **information**.
4. She responds with **fear**.

B. What was Mordecai's response?

1. What did he **say**?

"... And who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
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2. What was the **significance** of his words?
3. What did it **reveal** about him?
4. What can we **learn**?

"Mordecai was at that moment (*where you can step forward and help your children to understand the value of being brave*). So when Hathach comes to him with Esther's answer, Mordecai tightens his sash around his sackcloth and says the hard thing. He appeals to her character...I smile with great delight as I imagine Mordecai's passion as he stated these eloquent words – three significant sentences that, if acted upon, could alter the history of the Jews." Charles Swindoll

- C. What was Esther's decision?
 1. What **character traits** do we see?
 - a. We see personal **sacrifice**.
 - b. We see **action** not **outcome**.
 - c. We see **dependence** on God.

- D. What was Esther's preparation?
 1. She **fasted** and **prayed**.
 - a. She **yielded** herself to God's **plan**.
 - b. She **yielded** herself to God's **preparation**.
 2. She asked for **intercession**.

IN SUMMARY...

"The mighty liner of God's sovereign design keeps its steady course over the sea of history. God moves undisturbed and unhindered toward the fulfillment of those eternal purposes which He purposed in Christ Jesus before the world began."

A. W. Tozer