

November 7, 2015

Esther 4:1-17

Due to Haman's decree that all Jews, from youth to the elderly, were to be erased from the earth, Mordecai goes into a public state of mourning. He then calls upon Esther to petition the king on behalf of the people, reminding Esther of her identity and the unlikelihood of avoiding the wrath to come if she stays incognito. Esther ultimately replies that she will go to the king, even at the cost of her own life.

Our condition as broken, sinful people cannot be overridden by any attainment of power or status. We all, like the Jewish people, are in desperate need for someone of power and royal authority to stand in for us. As stated in John 10:18, our God did this for us; Jesus willingly laid down His life, took on our sin and gave us His righteousness.

Questions:

1. Read Romans 6:11. Oftentimes, our identity can become wrapped up in our culture and status, just as in Esther's case. We also don't want to experience pain, suffering or death; rather, we find "queen-ship" quite appealing compared to the latter.
 - a. What does it mean to consider or count ourselves dead to sin?
 - b. What specifically do you need to count as dead in your life?
 - c. What kind of effect does counting yourself dead have on your life?
2. How can you daily debunk the illusion and lie that this life is all for your comfort and that things should always be easy?
3. God is always working and wants to use us to be expendable for Him/others; how is it in your best interest to obey and pour yourself out for others?
4. What is one area in your life that is a strength, an experience or a unique thing about you that you have leveraged or could leverage for the Lord for such a time as this?
5. Considering your own life, how would you respond if you were Esther in her situation?