

November 28, 2015

Esther 8

Once again, Queen Esther put herself at personal risk as she pleaded with tears and reason before the king. She appealed to him to reverse the decree to annihilate the Jews. As the king's word is the law of the land and could not be reversed, he told Esther and Mordecai to write another decree to be sent throughout the Persian Empire with his authority and seal. This decree declared Jews the right to arm themselves and to do whatever was necessary to defend themselves. As word reached the Jews, they celebrated and rejoiced as they had received favor from the king.

Questions:

1. Imagine Esther, the Queen of Persia, kneeling before the throne of King Xerxes on behalf for her people. Esther's intercession is a powerful model for believers to follow. Spend some time as a group and/or individually interceding on behalf of your brothers and sisters who are suffering around the world.
2. When discussing options with others, do you give ultimatums? If so, is it for your comfort, to prove you are right or for another reason altogether?
3. Oftentimes, we find ourselves in positions we did not ask for, as Queen Esther did. Share a time when you were given authority or responsibility that you did not necessarily want. How did you use it — personal gain or promoting His cause?
4. What is your most common response to your plan(s) being disrupted?
5. What is one thing you can do to step outside your own palace and bind yourself to a cause of the Kingdom and/or alleviate the suffering of another?