





S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

Take Me To The King

Esther 4:10-17

INTRODUCTION **NOTES** In today's message, we are looking at a few verses in Esther chapter 4, where we find the story about a young Jewish woman who lived along with her people in captivity in Persia. The King of Persia, King Xerxes I, was not the most thoughtful king. He was an impulsive leader who influenced by hateful, vengeful, racist, spiteful, bloodthirsty advisors to act upon their hatred of Jews, and here in our text, it all comes to a head. The king's lead advisor Haman devises a scheme to have every Jew in Persia killed, and he convinces the king to sign it into law. When Esther learns of the plan, she is confronted with a decision of what to do. Should she remain silent and play it safe or should she take a stand and go to the king which runs the risk of losing her life? **KEY POINTS** 1. Choose courage over comfort. After King Xerxes got rid of his first wife Vashti, Esther entered the beauty contest and was chosen to be the king's new wife. After starting at the bottom as a Jew in captivity, she has now arrived. She is living the good life with the world at her disposal, which is why news that her husband the king is planning to exterminate her people, places her in what seems to be a difficult position. Should she keep quiet and just preserve herself, or should she speak up and potentially risk it all and possibly be put to death? In effect, Esther's uncle Mordecai says, I know you're the gueen and all, but don't let your position go to your head. Don't think that your position as queen will exempt you from attack, and don't let your proximity to power cause you to forget who you are and where you come from. We would be wise to take the same advice. Let's not forget where we've come from, and let's not disregard where God has placed us now. The whole of your life was preparing you for this moment. God has appointed you for such a time as this. Every struggle, every trial, all the ups, all the downs, they were all positioning you and equipping you to take a stand so that you could accomplish God's work in the world. 2. Be clear about your calling. The text suggests that what convinced Esther to take her petition to the king is that she recognized she was in her position for a reason (v. 13-14). Esther and her people are preparing to endure difficult days. They are the victims of a genocidal plot and are preparing to face death and suffering; the highest-ranking government officials have weaponized the government of Persia against them, and Mordecai says to Esther, you have been called by God to make a difference for such a time as this.

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Mordecai then goes on to encourage her to review her history and reflect on how she got where she was. Was it by her own efforts? Was it because she was so bright and intelligent, or was it because of the favor and grace of God? These are questions not just for Esther, but for all of us as well. If God is sovereign and He guides, then we can expect that God's hand is upon us, God's will is leading us, and God's protection is around us. We are where God wants us to be not accidentally, but intentionally. If we are serious followers of Jesus, then we are where He wants us to be.

3. Be connected to your community.

While it's true that Ester set out to answer God's call on her life and make a difference, she didn't do it in her own strength. She is in the palace, married to the king, but she tells her uncle Mordecai to have her people begin fasting on her behalf. She has all of that power and access, but she is still connected to a community, a community of worshippers, a community of people who were oppressed, and a community of people who pray. In the same way, we should never lose our connection to our community, nor should we lose our connection to God. Let's not forget the people who were with us on our way up because we will inevitably need them on our way down.

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Do you find yourself choosing comfort over courage when you're faced with a decision?
- 2. When was a time you chose the safe, comfortable option, rather than choosing to be courageous? What would you do differently if you could go back?

3.	What are you doing right now to fulfill God's calling for you, wherever He has placed you?

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