

Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity



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Chapter 4: An Evil Interlude

“In fact, the goal in life is not to get away from the pain of it, but to endure through it, in fact, to triumph over it, while learning the lessons only pain can teach us.”

~ What is your attitude when you are going through a painful experience?

Suffering: A Repeated Theme Throughout Life Pages 58-60

“The best way to begin living with and learning from such experiences is to understand the theological root of the problem. It is the universal presence of evil, plain and simple.”

~ Thinking back on some painful experiences, what have you been able to learn from them?

Mutiny: A Minor Plot Against the King Pages 60-61

~ What does “in those days” signify? What was going on at the time of Esther 2:21?



"When an offense isn't checked, it grows into anger."

~ What offense has gone unchecked in your mind? What can you do about it so that it doesn't grow into anger.

"And when anger is allowed to fester, it leads to rage and sometimes to murder."

~ What has you angry? What do you need to do in order to get rid of that anger?

"When those kinds of things poison our minds, they can make us into people bent on conspiracy."

~ What is poisoning your mind? What kind of person has it made you? What do you need to do in order to clear your mind and become the person God wants you to be?

Vengeance: A Major Scheme Against the Jews
Pages 62-69

~ The turning points in our lives start out as any other day. What "big event" happened in your life that started out to be just like any other day?



“When righteousness rules, justice reigns; but when evil lurks in a heart, injustice follows.”

~ When, in your life, have you seen this become a reality?

~ There is a cause and effect relationship going on here. The problem is that it gets exaggerated because of a past offense – so past was this offense that the people in the conflict weren’t even born when the offense happened.

Mordecai won’t bow down to Haman.

Haman gets mad.

Haman doesn’t want to just kill Mordecai – he decides to kill all of Mordecai’s people, the Jews.

~ When in your life have you let an offense run away with your emotions and you have gotten carried away with it?

“This is why it is important that each of us lives an accountable life and includes in our circle people who are strong enough to use words like: “unwise,” “not good,” “too far,” “watch it.”

~ Who do you have in your life that is a wise council for you to keep accountable to?

~ Are you nursing a grudge? With whom is this grudge?



Wickedness: An Appropriate Response
Pages 70-73

~ Lessons we can learn from this story:

1) From Mordecai - Never _____ there will always be
_____ who will resent your devotion to the Lord.

2) From Haman - Never _____ the diabolical nature of
_____.

“A lack of forgiveness that stays on the back burner has the ability to poison your
life if you allow it.”

3) From Ahasuerus - Never _____ the value of your own
_____.

“At one time or another in every one of our lives we have been shocked with the
relevance of Scripture.”

~ Have you been shocked by the relevance of Scripture lately? What was it?

