

Esther's Courage

Esther 3:1-5:2

Next to King Ahasuerus, Haman was the most important man in the kingdom. He was so important, in fact, that the people were supposed to bow down to him. But when Haman walked by Mordecai, who was Queen Esther's cousin, Mordecai would not bow down.

"Why aren't you bowing down to me?" Haman asked Mordecai.

"I love the Lord God and worship Him only," replied Mordecai.

This made Haman very angry. He went to the king and asked permission to kill all the people who loved God. The king told Haman he could carry out his evil plan.

When Mordecai heard about Haman's plan, he was very upset. He sent a message to Queen Esther. "You must tell the king about the plan to kill all the people who believe in God," he said.

"I cannot go to the king unless he invites me," answered Queen Esther. "Unless the king holds out his golden scepter, any person who goes to see him without an invitation will be put to death."

"You will be killed if Haman's plan is carried out," was the message Mordecai sent back to the queen.

"Gather all the people who love God and pray for three days," Esther said. "I will do the same here in the palace. We will pray that the king will let me see him."

On the third day, Queen Esther dressed in her beautiful royal robes and went into the king's throne room. God gave Esther courage to do this very hard thing.

When King Ahasuerus saw Esther, he remembered how much he loved her. He held out his golden scepter to show that he was welcoming Esther into his presence. The king was willing to do whatever Esther asked him to do.

Bible Verse to Learn

". . . The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Psalm 13:6).