

Lesson 7
The Wisdom of Mordecai and the Courage of Esther
(Esther 4)

Questions

1. How did Mordecai and the Jews react when they heard the news of Haman's plot to destroy the Jews (4:1-3)?

2. How did Esther react (4:4)?

3. What message did Mordecai give to Esther through Hathach her chamberlain and what did Mordecai want her to do (4:5-8)?

4. What message did Esther give to Mordecai in return (4:9-12)?

5. What message did Mordecai give to Esther to encourage her to save her people (4:13-14)?

6. What message did Esther give to Mordecai in return (4:15-17)?

Digging Deeper

1. What is sackcloth and what was the purpose of putting it on with ashes (4:1-3)?

2. What or where was the other "place" that Mordecai believed help would come (4:14)? Is he referring here to help that would come from God?

Applications for Today

1. It should cause us great sorrow that harm would come to God's people (4:1-4; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:26).
2. If we do not do what is right, God will still do what is right despite our lack of action (4:14; Psa. 65:5; 103:6; 2 Thess. 1:6).
3. God wants us to use our time and talents on this earth to do his will and the time to do what is right is now (4:14; Eccl. 3:1-8, 17; 2 Cor. 6:2; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5).
4. Always encourage others to do the right thing (4:13-14; 1 Sam. 25:23ff).
5. If we have to die for doing what is right, so be it (4:16; Jn. 15:13; Acts 15:26; Phil. 2:30; 1 Jn. 3:16).