

True Grit: The Beauty of Bravery

April 15, 2018 | The Plot

And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14

Are heroes born or made?

Review of Chapters 1-2:

- Xerxes is the king of Persia
- Esther wins a beauty contest, and she becomes the queen of Persia
- Esther doesn't tell anyone that she is a Jew
- Mordecai is Esther's relative who raised her and serves in the palace
- Mordecai exposes a plot to assassinate the king

Summary of Chapters 3-4:

- Haman is made the chief of staff for Xerxes
- Mordecai will not bow down and worship Haman
- Haman conceives a plan to destroy all the Jews because of Mordecai
- Mordecai finds out about Haman's plan, and asks Esther to intervene with the king
- Esther must choose to put her life on the line in order to save her people

Life-Lessons from Chapters 3-4:

- 1. Worship only God**
 - a. Mordecai and Esther were living in a pagan culture, and so are we
 - b. *You shall have no other gods before me.* **Exodus 20:3**
 - c. What do you worship?
- 2. In life, you will have conflict**
 - a. Mordecai did not try to upstage Haman; he will just not worship him
 - b. *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* **Romans 12:18**
 - c. It takes conflict in order to have heroes
- 3. If you are a Christ-follower, you will be persecuted for your faith**
 - a. Being a people of God is counter to the world
 - b. Jesus said, "*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" **Matthew 5:10**
 - c. What are some ways that we are persecuted for Christ today?
- 4. It takes bravery to be a hero**
 - a. Faith requires risk
 - b. *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.* **Joshua 1:9**
 - c. Are you going to live by fear or by faith?
- 5. This is your time**
 - a. You were born at this time in history for a reason and a purpose
 - b. *For such a time as this* **Esther 4:14**
 - c. How is God calling you to take a stand for Him in your day and generation?

When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.

Esther 4:16b

Taking it Home

It takes bravery to be a hero. We are followers of Christ living in a pagan world. This world is not our home. Therefore, we will experience conflict and persecution, if we truly live our lives for Christ. Sometimes, the persecution is small - someone may not understand why we pray, go to church or invest in God's work.

Other times, the persecution is big - many Christ-followers around the world put their lives on the line. Through it all, we are called to be brave. Faith requires risk, and heroes emerge from conflict. Are you living a life of fear or faith? Are you boldly living the Christian life? Step out and be brave - God is with you and for you!