

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Esther 4:14b (NKJV)

Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Lesson
FOUR



Loved by the King

Discussion >>>

1. *Haman was against the Jews. Who does he spiritually symbolize to Christians today? Who does Esther symbolize?*
2. *When Paul says "if God is for us" does that mean that God is for Christians only or for all people?*
3. *Tell about a time you felt like God called you to a position or circumstance for "such a time as this".*
4. *How has God demonstrated His love and how is He currently showing His love?*

A scene from three days before played over and over in Esther's mind as her maidens helped her get dressed and worked to apply her beauty treatments. She remembered the agony in Mordecai's eyes as he took her by both shoulders and begged her to take the fate of the Jewish people before the king for mercy. She could still hear him say the words, "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Even though fear gripped her, she knew Mordecai was right. Everything her uncle had taught her about Yahweh, and His love for her people made it clear what she had to do. She would approach the king, and if she perished, it would not be without first giving all she had to try to save them from the murderous fate that Haman had planned. She had hoped that the three day fast that she had asked Mordecai to call amongst the people would move the king's heart to call her to him. She knew if he didn't call her, she would be risking her life to come before him without an invitation. The king hadn't called. So, she mustered up all the faith she had inside of her to put one step in front of the other and headed towards the throne room.

Her heartbeat was loud as the heavy doors opened, and she stepped into the inner court. As the space between the king and her waned, their eyes met. She wished she could read his thoughts. Was it anger or disbelief that was written on his face? Was he preparing to shout for the guards to haul away the woman that dared to enter his courts without being asked? She stood before him silently asking for his grace, not daring to speak the

5. *What's the difference between "these things" in Romans 8:31 and "all things" in Romans 8:32?*
6. *What enemies do you feel are standing against The Church in our time? How has Romans 8 encouraged you to face them?*
7. *What does Paul mean in Romans 8:37 when he says that we are "more than conquerors"?*
8. *What truth from the Romans 8 series has had the greatest impact towards your faith?*

words. It was only a few moments but felt like eternity. Finally, she let go of the breath she had been holding, as she watched him hold out his golden scepter signifying his favor towards her. She reached up with trembling fingertips and touched the top of it in unspoken humility. The king had accepted her and with inquisitive eyes asked for her request. She knew in that moment, if Yahweh was for her, not even Haman could stand against her.

In their enemy Haman, the Jews faced an accuser that wanted nothing more than their destruction. Haman's pride and quest for power drove him mad with hate when Mordecai refused to bow down to him. His hate was so great, that he set out to annihilate an entire race of people. When the Jews began to cry out to God for deliverance and protection, God listened and showed Haman what happens to the one that comes against His children. Though their enemy was powerful, he could not stand against them with God on their side.

Like Esther, we also have a prideful enemy who in his hate for us, comes before The King to accuse and ask permission to bring destruction to us and those we love. But there is good news for the believer. As King Ahasuerus chose Esther, brought her into his palace, washed her clean and provided her with royal robes, our King has also chosen us, cleansed us and dressed us in royal garments as sons and daughters of The Most High. He gave His very own Son's life and had Him take on the penalty that was due us, so that we could freely live with Him. With such a sacrifice, He will not stand for the enemy bringing charges against His elect. As our pastor shared this morning, when the flesh, world systems, or even satan himself tries to condemn us, because of Christ's sacrifice and intercession for us, we can confidently approach God's throne of grace, knowing that God will hear our request. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from the love of our King.