



Pastor Andy  
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Single Focus

## A Providential Push

Act 1: The Provinces are Petrified! (Esther 4:1-3)

*Scene 1:  
Mordecai Mourns...  
Esther 4:1-2*

- Mordecai mourned in the midst of the city (v. 1).
  - ◆ He tore his clothes
  - ◆ He put on sackcloth and ashes
  - ◆ He went public.
  - ◆ He cried out loudly and bitterly.

All of these aspects of Mordecai's mourning were outward expressions of inward feelings.

- Mordecai mourned at the entrance of the King's gate. (v. 2)
  - ◆ No one was allowed to enter the king's gate while mourning.
  - ◆ Mordecai still went to (but not through) the King's gate. Why?
    - He wanted to get Esther's attention!

*Scene 2:  
The Kingdom Mourns  
Esther 4:3*

- Mordecai was an example that all of the Jews chose to follow!



- The Jews' response was great—Jews from *every province* mourned.
- The Jews' reaction was great— They mourned greatly, with fasting, weeping, lamenting, sackcloth, and ashes.

## Act 2: A Confrontational Conversation (Esther 4:4-17)

### *Scene 1:*

*Esther reaches out to Mordecai*

*Esther 4:4*

- Esther and her helpers were likely isolated from general world affairs.
- Esther was deeply distressed by Mordecai's mourning, because she didn't know why.

### *Scene 2:*

*Mordecai informs Esther*

*Esther 4:5-8a*

- When Mordecai refused to communicate with Esther on her terms, she did it his way.
- Esther and Mordecai communicated through Hathach.
  - ◆ He was an assigned servant.
  - ◆ He was a trustworthy servant.
- Mordecai sent the edict back with Hathach in order to...
  - ◆ Show it to Esther.
  - ◆ Explain it to Esther
  - ◆ To command Esther!



*Scene 3:*

*Mordecai and Esther debate*

*Esther 4:8b-14*

- Mordecai's Command: Go to the King!
  - ◆ Beg for his favor.
  - ◆ Advocate for her people.
- Esther's Timid Response
  - ◆ Persian Law- There was a possible penalty of death.
  - ◆ Present Circumstance- Xerxes hadn't called to her for 30 days.
- Mordecai's Threat
  - ◆ He threatened her for false security.
  - ◆ He threatened her for fearful silence.
- Mordecai's Sovereign Reminder- "For such a time as this" (v. 14).

Esther's election to her Queenly position was for service to God, not for her own benefit.

*Scene 4:*

*Esther requests fasting and prayer*

*Esther 4:15-17*

- Esther's instructions:
  - ◆ Gather the Jews
  - ◆ Fast and pray
- Esther's risk- "If I perish, I perish."
  - Esther is now showing courage like Vashti and Mordecai.
  - When Esther accepted that she was providentially positioned, she lived out her purpose.



## God's Sovereignty in the Shadows

- Trustworthy Hathach
- The word “favor”
- Mordecai's words: “For such a time as this.”

## Practical Applications

- Have some iron-sharpening iron friends who tell you what you need to hear (Prov. 27:17)
- Lessons of Bravery:
  - ◆ Don't crumble under circumstances—trust God!
  - ◆ Don't compromise convictions—obey God!
- You need to have a providential perspective of your life!
  - ◆ Providentially confront your discontent.
  - ◆ Providentially evaluate your opportunities.
  - ◆ Providentially embrace your challenges.
  - ◆ Providentially trust God in trials.