



Pastor Andy
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Single Focus

Esther's Moment of Truth

Act 1: Esther's Footsteps of Faith (Esther 5:1-4)

- Esther takes a major risk. (5:1)
 - ◆ She progressed from prayer to action.
 - ◆ She put on her royal robes.
 - ◆ She stood in the inner court.
- Xerxes avored his Queen. (5:2)
 - ◆ Esther won favor in his sight.
 - ◆ Xerxes extended his golden scepter.
- Xerxes questioned his Queen (5:3)
 - ◆ His question: "What is your request?" (5:3a)
 - ◆ His promise: "It shall be given you, even to half of my kingdom" (5:3b)
- Esther's Answer (5:4)
 - ◆ "Come to my prepared feast." (5:4)
 - ◆ Esther did not give her real request...yet.
 - ◆ Esther invited Xerxes and Haman.

*Esther prepared the feast before she risked her life before the king!
This is a clear evidence of her faith.*
- Banquet motif
 - ◆ Xerxes' 2 banquets (1:2-4, 5-8)- Purim's 2 banquets (9:17-19)
 - ◆ Esther's coronation (2:18)- Mordecai's promotion (8:17)
 - ◆ Esther's 1st banquet (5:1-8)- Esther's 2nd banquet (7:1-9)



Act 2: Esther's First Feast (Esther 5:5-8)

- Xerxes' Immediate Response- "Bring Haman quickly..."(5:5)
- Xerxes' Second Request- "What is your wish/request?" (5:6)
- Esther's Second Answer- "Let the king and Haman comes to the feast that I will prepare for them...tomorrow..." (5:7-8)
 - ◆ Why did Esther make the King wait? It could have been...
 - A lack of courage
 - Respecting oriental/political customs for making a proposal
 - Spiritual wisdom
 - ◆ Remember, Esther became an entirely different character when she began to trust in God's sovereignty and providential leading in her life ("For such a time as this")

God's Sovereignty in the Shadows

- King Xerxes' Favor
- Esther's Wisdom

Practical Applications

- Prayer- Do you pray through major life decisions?
- Spiritual risks- Are you willing to step out in faith?
- Boldness- Make confident, God-dependent decisions and act on them.
- Patience- Trust God's character and timing