

When fear tests our faith

Esther 4, page 398

- I. FEAR: MORDECAI URGED ESTHER TO BEG XERXES TO STOP HAMAN'S PLOT TO KILL ALL JEWS (ESTHER 4:1-8).
 - A. Mordecai and all Jews were terrified by Haman's plot (1-3).
 - B. When Mordecai was in sackcloth, Esther initially just sent new clothes, but when he rejected them she asked why (4-5).
 - C. Mordecai messaged Esther about Haman's plot and urged her to approach Xerxes to plead for the Jew's survival (6-8).
 - *Desperation is the first step toward growing our faith.*
- II. FAITH: ESTHER STRUGGLED WITH THE RISK, BUT ASKED JEWS TO FAST, THEN SHE WOULD GO (ESTHER 4:9-12).
 - A. Esther told Mordecai that approaching the king uninvited would risk her life (9-12).
 - B. Mordecai challenged Esther that maybe God made her queen "for such a time as this" (13-14).
 1. "Esther, your life is in danger whether you help or not" (13).
 2. "God will deliver us another way if you don't help" (14a).
 3. "Maybe God made you queen to help deliver us" (14b).
 - *To not trust God is more dangerous than trusting God.*
 - *God doesn't need us to achieve His will, but longs to use us.*
 - C. Esther asked the Jews to fast (includes prayer) because she had decided to go to the king in spite of the risk (15-17).
 - *Faith grows best as we trust God alongside other believers.*