

ESTHER SAVES HER PEOPLE

I. Be nice.

- A. Notice 2:8-9, 15.
 - 1. Because of her sweet disposition she found favor with everyone that met her.
 - 2. She was given wonderful treatment and obtained the best place to live.
- B. You might think that is not a big deal but think about the nice people you've met.
 - 1. Isn't it easier to do things for people like that?
 - 2. Isn't that how we want to be treated?
- C. The golden rule is extremely helpful to follow in life (Mt. 7:12).
 - 1. This is a rule that is often confused.
 - 2. It does not say "treat others the way they treat you."
 - 3. It tells us to treat others how we want to be treated.
- D. By simply being nice Esther fared far better than the other girls that were in the competition, which is really what it was.
- E. We know this is true in our lives as well but it is not always easy to practice.
 - 1. We don't know what is going on in the lives of those around us and to be unkind reflects poorly on us.
 - 2. Pr. 12:25; 15:1; 16:24; 25:11.
 - 3. We are to put on kindness according to Paul (Col. 3:12).
 - 4. One of the Christian virtues is brotherly kindness (2 Pe. 1:7).

II. Listen to good people.

- A. There is a lot of noise around us in this world.
 - 1. All types of communication possibilities.
 - 2. Some are good but many are not.
- B. With what type of people do we surround ourselves?
- C. When the going was tough Esther listened to a good man, Mordecai (4:8b-16).
 - 1. Here was a godly man who loved her.
 - 2. He would want only the best for her and was not being selfish at all.
- D. We need to surround ourselves with people who are looking out for our good and not their benefit.
- E. 1 Co. 15:33.
- F. The company we keep here on earth may very well determine the company we keep in eternity.

III. Be prayerful.

- A. Esther's request to Mordecai was to have the Jews pray for her as she prayed herself.
 - 1. Esther understood the need for God on her side.
 - 2. She did not want to face the king without God being with her.
- B. Christians need to be people of prayer.
 - 1. God asks that we cast our cares upon Him because He cares for

- us.
- 2. The way to do this is through prayer.
- C. Paul told the Thessalonians to pray without ceasing.
 - 1. Why would he do this?
 - 2. He understood how powerful prayer is.
 - 3. We have access to tremendous power through prayer (Ephesians 3:20).
- D. You look at the life of Jesus and you see One who prayed consistently and understood how powerful it was.
- E. You read the works of Paul and you read prayers offered up in the middle of his writing (Gal 1:3-5; Eph 3:20-21).
- F. Jesus taught us to pray and not to faint.
- G. This is a weapon in the arsenal of Christians that often goes unused.

IV. **Be usable.**

- A. God's people needed Esther.
 - 1. She had a choice to make, to be usable or to be safe.
 - 2. Mordecai let her know that she would not be safe if she chose to not be usable.
- B. Think of what Esther was potentially giving up.
 - 1. Her life; her position; the comforts that went along with being queen.
 - 2. She was living many a young girl's dream of getting to be the queen.
- C. Thankfully, she chose to be usable.
 - 1. Notice her wonderful attitude.
 - 2. If I perish, I perish.
- D. There is so much work in the kingdom of Christ that needs to be done yet so few who are willing to do it.
 - 1. The old saying is 90% of the work is done by 10% of the members.
 - 2. Sadly this accurate in many congregations.
- E. Think of the wonderful example of Barnabas.
 - 1. He was usable.
 - 2. He willingly offered what he had in service to Christ.

V. **Be humble.**

- A. Esther did not abuse her position to get what she wanted.
- B. Haman was one of the most prideful people we've ever heard of or read about.
- C. This is the attitude we are to have (Luke 17:10).
 - 1. Pride is a killer.
 - 2. Pr. 16:18.
- D. Peter told us to be clothed with humility (1 Pe. 5:5).
- E. We are to be those that prefer other over self (Php 2:3).
- F. Paul then encouraged us to follow the example of Christ who humbled Himself (Php 2:8).

VI. **Be faithful.**

- A. Esther was faithful to the one who raised her and the one to whom, as a

Jew, she belonged.

1. Esther did not allow Mordecai to go unaided.
 2. Esther did not allow God and His people to be ignored.
- B. She faithfully carried out the will of God for her life.
- C. God does not call us to perfection, but to faithfulness (1 Co. 4:2).
1. When the going got rough, Esther's faith shone brightly.
 2. How will we stand up to the tests that await us.
- D. Our God is faithful to us (1 Co. 10:13) and we should be faithful to Him.