

Jesse Tree

KIDS' DAILY DEVOTIONAL



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIS POINT IN GOD'S STORY?

We've spent the last couple of days talking about some really amazing ways that God worked through people – people like Elijah and Daniel – to show the people around them how powerful He was! Our story today takes place another couple of hundred years after Daniel was rescued by God in the lion's den. Once again, God's people are in need of rescue. And, as SO often happens in God's story, rescue comes with help from someone most people would NOT have expected to have been chosen by God to be important.

In today's story, God's people are being ruled by the country of Persia and a king names Xerxes. Xerxes had a wife, but she had done something that had made him angry. As a result, he declared that she could never again come before him. Instead, he decided to find the most beautiful woman in his kingdom to be his new wife.

His people gathered together the young women from the kingdom that they thought were the most beautiful and brought them to a palace to get ready to see the king. One of those young women was named Esther.

Esther's parents had died and she had been raised by her cousin, Mordecai. After Esther was taken to the palace to get ready to see the king, Mordecai followed her there. He was concerned about her. He paced back and forth outside the walls every day to try and find out how she was doing. Esther had not told anyone in the palace that she was one of God's chosen people, who were called Jews, so only Mordecai knew this. He had told her not to tell anyone, so she didn't!

Esther was in that palace a for a year getting ready to go and see the king! After a year, she was taken to the king. The king loved her and made her his new queen!

Mordecai got a job working for the king at his gate, and there he overheard men planning to kill the king. He told Esther about it. She told the king and the men that were planning to kill him were captured and killed.

There was an important man that worked for the king named, Haman. Mordecai would not bow down to Haman. That made Haman mad! He knew that Mordecai was a Jew. Instead of just getting mad at Mordecai, he got mad at ALL the Jews! He came up with a plan to kill them all! Haman convinced the king to send out an order to ALL parts of his kingdom. It said that on a certain upcoming day the people of the kingdom were to kill ALL the Jews living among them – the men, the women, and the children. People were shocked and scared!

When Mordecai heard about the order, he sent a message to Esther that they needed her help. They needed her to go to the king and ask him to be kind and help her people, the Jews.

BIBLE READING

Esther 4:10-5:3

Esther was understandably afraid to go before the king. He had gotten angry with his first wife and decided to find a new one. He didn't even know that Esther WAS a Jew! And going before the king without being called there by him could mean that she would be put to death.

Esther told Mordecai that she and all her people would give up eating for three days. Usually, when we see people doing that in the Bible, they are using that time to focus on praying to God. After 3 days, Esther bravely went before the king . . . and he was glad she came! He held out his scepter to her!

She invited him and Hamaan to a feast. They came, and then she invited them to come back to another feast the next day. The next day, she told the king that she was a Jew and about Haman's plan to have all of the Jews killed. The king was furious and ordered that Haman be killed!

WHAT DO THOSE VERSES TELL US ABOUT GOD?

Mordecai told Esther that rescue would come from somewhere else. But he also told her that she may have been given this position in the royal family (by God) so that she would have the opportunity to help her people.

Job 42:2 says that God can do **anything** and His plans **cannot** be ruined. God will always find a way to make his plans happen. Just like Esther, we have chances to be part of those plans. Sometimes it can be hard to choose to do what we think God wants us to do . . . or SCARY, like it was for Esther. But God puts us in places, or among people, where we have the opportunity to do things for God – to help people or to tell other people about Him. We just have to be willing to be like Esther and try.

PRAYER

Dear God, You can do anything! Please help me to remember that. Help me to see the opportunities that you give me to choose to act for you! In Jesus name we pray, amen!



