

# INVESTING IN OTHERS

Mordecai and Esther // Esther 2:5-7; 4:8-17

## THE POINT

Encourage others to follow God's leadership—  
no matter the cost.

Haman was a descendant of the Jews' sworn enemies, the Amalakites. He hated the Jewish people and conspired to have the Jewish people annihilated. Esther, however, had been placed by God in a position to seek the good of the Jewish people. She called the Jewish people to fasting and prayer, and at the encouragement of her uncle Mordecai, Esther boldly approached King Ahasuerus with a request to save the Jewish people. Mordecai knew that Esther's going before the king involved great risk. However, he also knew that it was right, so he encouraged her in walking in God's will.

### › Key Question

**How do you see God's sovereignty at work in this story? In your own life?**

People are often tempted to believe that our lives will be smooth and easy once we commit to following Jesus. Esther's life wasn't easy. However, because she was faithful through times of difficult uncertainties, God used her to make a powerful difference in the lives of His people. In the same way, when we're faithful to God, even when life doesn't go the ways we've planned, God can use us too.

### › Keep in Mind

The Bible teaches that dishonest and manipulative people will not inherit God's kingdom or experience God's greatest blessings. However, it seems like dishonest, greedy, and sinful people are always ahead of us. This can be frustrating, but it's important to understand that we live in a broken world. Because God is merciful and patient, He doesn't immediately judge every sin but offers the opportunity to change. God will judge every sin and right every wrong in His time. It can be easy for us to see life as only what's happening to us right now. However, it's important that we look at things through an eternal perspective, knowing that the dishonest and manipulative will not inherit God's kingdom.

### › Application

When have you stood up for what is right, even when it came at a cost?

### › The Win

Mordecai encouraged Esther to go before King Ahasuerus with the request to save the Jewish people. They both understood that the king could be quite volatile and approaching him without being invited could be seen as a terrible offense. Still, both Mordecai and Esther saw it as right and, therefore, took the risk. As it turned out, the king welcomed Esther and their plan worked flawlessly. Following Jesus often involves risk. However, when we live with the eternal kingdom in mind, it helps us to understand that the earthly risk is worth it.

STUDENTS

**BIBLE**  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE.