

Women of the Bible:

Esther

First: Start with the facts from each passage:

Second: What would her life have been like at this time

Third: What traits do we discover about her

Fourth: How did God work through this person, even after their mistake(s)

Fifth: What inspiration or lessons can be learned?

Esther 2:5-7

Esther 2:8, 9

Esther 2:10, 11

Esther 2:15-18

Esther 2:19-23

Esther 4:1-17

Esther 5:1-8

Esther 7:1-10

Esther 8:1,2

Esther 8:3-17

Esther 9:29-32

Lessons for Our Lives:

DID YOU NOTICE:

Mordecai—means “Warrior”

Hadassah—means “compassion”

Esther—means “Star” (Persian—could also come from name of Persian goddess: Ishtar)

Esther 2:5-7 Jews have been freed from “captivity” but now under Persian rule. Esther was an orphan who had been raised by her cousin Mordecai. Attractive on the outside.

Esther 2:8, 9 Found to be “attractive” on the inside and was provided with special care.

Esther 2:10, 11 She continues to lean upon Mordecai for guidance and wisdom. They stay in touch

Esther 2:15-18 She found favor among everyone. She was humble and trusted the insight of the servant Hegai. She is made queen, not just because of her outward beauty, but also her personality

Esther 2:19-23 Esther continues to heed Mordecai and gives him credit in saving the king’s life.

Esther 4:1-17 Esther is hesitant to comply with Mordecai’s request but upon his insistence, asks for prayer and fasting before she heads to the king. She does not consider herself exempt from the fasting (or prayer).

Esther 5:1-8 Esther shows wisdom, patience as she proceeds with a course that will lead to requesting the king to change HIS law.

Esther 7:1-10 She is respectful and humble as she shares her request. She makes it clear that she is not asking for special privileges, just to be allowed to live. She identifies Haman as the perpetrator of her destruction.

Esther 8:1,2 Esther receives Haman’s estate and places her cousin, Mordecai to be in charge of it. She continues to remember and honor the one who had done so much for her.

Esther 8:3-17 Esther appeals for the right of the Jews to defend themselves against their adversaries and attackers. Mordecai and Esther are appointed to write the decree with the King’s authority.

Esther 9:29-32 Mordecai and Esther write second letter establishing Purim as a time of remembrance.