

CHAPTER 20, THE QUEEN OF BEAUTY AND COURAGE

Journal your answers to these questions as you read through the chapter this week. You may wish to read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

DAY 1

1. Compare and contrast either Queens Vashti and Esther or Mordecai and Haman. Consider how their actions and words reveal their characters and synthesize your conclusions into a simple life lesson that applies to you today.
2. Mordecai seemed to have God's Upper Story in view when he sent word to Esther, "*And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*" (p. 282). When has God most recently placed you in a position to serve a greater purpose than you desired? How did that make you feel?

DAY 2

1. How did Esther respond to Mordecai's instruction to approach the king and beg for mercy (p. 282)? Other than courage, what else was driving Esther's response?
2. Briefly list all that Haman boasted of to his wife and friends (p. 283). Why then was he not satisfied? What does this teach you about pride and discontentment?

DAY 3

1. The story of Esther demonstrates the need for fasting when facing a major crisis. Fasting is not an effort to "bribe" God into granting our request, but instead is done in reverence of His sovereignty and to focus our efforts. Have you ever fasted? What was the result?
2. A Medo-Persian king's edicts could not be repealed. How might your words or speech be different if you could not undo them? (See Matthew 5:37, James 3:1-11, James 5:12, and Ephesians 4:29.) What should characterize a Christian's words?
3. What was supposed to be a day of great destruction became a day of great deliverance and celebration of God's faithfulness. If you were to commemorate a time when God delivered you or providentially watched over you, what would it be and how would you celebrate it?