

“INSANITY IS HEREDITARY; YOU GET IT FROM YOUR KIDS.” —SAM LEVENSON

“MOTHERHOOD: POWERED BY LOVE, FUELED BY COFFEE.” — UNKNOWN

“HAVING CHILDREN IS LIKE LIVING IN A FRAT HOUSE— NOBODY SLEEPS, EVERYTHING’S BROKEN, AND THERE’S A LOT OF THROWING UP.” —RAY ROMANO

“IF AT FIRST YOU DON’T SUCCEED, TRY DOING IT THE WAY MOM TOLD YOU TO IN THE BEGINNING.”

.001.tiff

I. THE CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

KING AHASUERUS

QUEEN VASHTI

MORDECAI

BIGTHAN AND TERESH

HAMAN

ESTHER

.002.tiff

2. THE CONTEXT IN HISTORY

.003.tiff

¹NOW IN THE DAYS OF AHASUERUS, THE AHASUERUS WHO REIGNED FROM INDIA TO ETHIOPIA OVER 127 PROVINCES, ²IN THOSE DAYS WHEN KING AHASUERUS SAT ON HIS ROYAL THRONE IN SUSA, THE CITADEL, ³IN THE THIRD YEAR OF HIS REIGN HE GAVE A FEAST FOR ALL HIS OFFICIALS AND SERVANTS. THE ARMY OF PERSIA AND MEDIA AND THE NOBLES AND GOVERNORS OF THE PROVINCES WERE BEFORE HIM, ⁴WHILE HE SHOWED THE RICHES OF HIS ROYAL GLORY AND THE SPLENDOR AND POMP OF HIS GREATNESS FOR MANY DAYS, 180 DAYS. ⁵AND WHEN THESE DAYS WERE COMPLETED, THE KING GAVE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE PRESENT IN SUSA THE CITADEL, BOTH GREAT AND SMALL, A FEAST LASTING FOR SEVEN DAYS IN THE COURT OF THE GARDEN OF THE KING’S PALACE...

.004.tiff

¹¹TO BRING QUEEN VASHTI BEFORE THE KING WITH HER ROYAL CROWN, IN ORDER TO SHOW THE PEOPLES AND THE PRINCES HER BEAUTY, FOR SHE WAS LOVELY TO LOOK AT.

¹²BUT QUEEN VASHTI REFUSED TO COME AT THE KING'S COMMAND DELIVERED BY THE EUNUCHS. AT THIS THE KING BECAME ENRAGED, AND HIS ANGER BURNED WITHIN HIM.

¹³THEN THE KING SAID TO THE WISE MEN WHO KNEW THE TIMES (FOR THIS WAS THE KING'S PROCEDURE TOWARD ALL WHO WERE VERSED IN LAW AND JUDGMENT... ¹⁹IF IT PLEASE THE KING, LET A ROYAL ORDER GO OUT FROM HIM, AND LET IT BE WRITTEN AMONG THE LAWS OF THE PERSIANS AND THE MEDES SO THAT IT MAY NOT BE REPEALED, THAT VASHTI IS NEVER AGAIN TO COME BEFORE KING AHASUERUS.

.005.tiff

AND LET THE KING GIVE HER ROYAL POSITION TO ANOTHER WHO IS BETTER THAN SHE. ²⁰SO WHEN THE DECREE MADE BY THE KING IS PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT ALL HIS KINGDOM, FOR IT IS VAST, ALL WOMEN WILL GIVE HONOR TO THEIR HUSBANDS, HIGH AND LOW ALIKE.” ²¹THIS ADVICE PLEASED THE KING AND THE PRINCES, AND THE KING DID AS MEMUCAN PROPOSED. ²²HE SENT LETTERS TO ALL THE ROYAL PROVINCES, TO EVERY PROVINCE IN ITS OWN SCRIPT AND TO EVERY PEOPLE IN ITS OWN LANGUAGE, THAT EVERY MAN BE MASTER IN HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD AND SPEAK ACCORDING TO THE LANGUAGE OF HIS PEOPLE.

ESTHER 1:1-5, 11-13, 19-22

.006.tiff

“MEN AND WOMEN ARE EQUAL IN VALUE,
DIFFERENT BY DESIGN.”

.007.tiff

WOMAN WITHOUT HER MAN IS NOTHING.
WOMAN, WITHOUT HER MAN, IS NOTHING.
WOMAN: WITHOUT HER, MAN IS NOTHING.

.008.tiff

LIKewise, HUSBANDS, LIVE
 WITH YOUR WIVES IN AN
 UNDERSTANDING WAY,
 SHOWING HONOR TO THE
 WOMAN AS THE
 WEAKER VESSEL, SINCE THEY
 ARE HEIRS WITH YOU OF
 THE GRACE OF LIFE,
 SO THAT YOUR PRAYERS
 MAY NOT BE HINDERED.

—1 PETER 3:7

.009.tiff

⁵NOW THERE WAS A JEW IN SUSA THE CITADEL WHOSE NAME
 WAS MORDECAI, THE SON OF JAIR, SON OF SHIMEI, SON OF KISH,
 A BENJAMINITE, ⁶WHO HAD BEEN CARRIED AWAY FROM JERUSALEM
 AMONG THE CAPTIVES CARRIED AWAY WITH JECONIAH KING
 OF JUDAH, WHOM NEBUCHADNEZZAR KING OF BABYLON
 HAD CARRIED AWAY. ⁷HE WAS BRINGING UP HADASSAH, THAT IS
 ESTHER, THE DAUGHTER OF HIS UNCLE, FOR SHE HAD NEITHER
 FATHER NOR MOTHER. THE YOUNG WOMAN HAD A BEAUTIFUL
 FIGURE AND WAS LOVELY TO LOOK AT, AND WHEN HER FATHER
 AND HER MOTHER DIED, MORDECAI TOOK HER AS HIS OWN
 DAUGHTER. ⁸SO WHEN THE KING'S ORDER AND HIS EDICT
 WERE PROCLAIMED, AND WHEN MANY YOUNG WOMEN WERE
 GATHERED IN SUSA THE CITADEL IN CUSTODY OF HEGAI,

.010.tiff

ESTHER ALSO WAS TAKEN INTO THE KING'S PALACE AND
 PUT IN CUSTODY OF HEGAI, WHO HAD CHARGE OF THE
 WOMEN. ⁹AND THE YOUNG WOMAN PLEASSED HIM AND WON
 HIS FAVOR. AND HE QUICKLY PROVIDED HER WITH HER
 COSMETICS AND HER PORTION OF FOOD, AND WITH SEVEN
 CHOSEN YOUNG WOMEN FROM THE KING'S PALACE,
 AND ADVANCED HER AND HER YOUNG WOMEN TO THE
 BEST PLACE IN THE HAREM. ¹⁰ESTHER HAD NOT MADE KNOWN
 HER PEOPLE OR KINDRED, FOR MORDECAI HAD COMMANDED
 HER NOT TO MAKE IT KNOWN. ¹¹AND EVERY DAY
 MORDECAI WALKED IN FRONT OF THE COURT OF THE HAREM
 TO LEARN HOW ESTHER WAS AND WHAT WAS HAPPENING
 TO HER. —ESTHER 2:5-11

.011.tiff

¹⁹NOW WHEN THE VIRGINS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER
 THE SECOND TIME, MORDECAI WAS SITTING AT THE KING'S GATE.
²⁰ESTHER HAD NOT MADE KNOWN HER KINDRED OR HER PEOPLE,
 AS MORDECAI HAD COMMANDED HER, FOR ESTHER OBEYED
 MORDECAI JUST AS WHEN SHE WAS BROUGHT UP BY HIM.
²¹IN THOSE DAYS, AS MORDECAI WAS SITTING AT THE KING'S GATE,
 BIGTHAN AND TERESH, TWO OF THE KING'S EUNUCHS,
 WHO GUARDED THE THRESHOLD, BECAME ANGRY AND SOUGHT
 TO LAY HANDS ON KING AHASUERUS. ²²AND THIS CAME TO THE
 KNOWLEDGE OF MORDECAI, AND HE TOLD IT TO QUEEN ESTHER,
 AND ESTHER TOLD THE KING IN THE NAME OF MORDECAI.
²³WHEN THE AFFAIR WAS INVESTIGATED AND FOUND TO BE SO,
 THE MEN WERE BOTH HANGED ON THE GALLOWS. AND IT
 WAS RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES
 IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING. —ESTHER 2:19-23

.012.tiff

3. THE CONFLICT WITH HAMAN

¹AFTER THESE THINGS KING AHASUERUS PROMOTED HAMAN THE AGAGITE, THE SON OF HAMMEDATHA, AND ADVANCED HIM AND SET HIS THRONE ABOVE ALL THE OFFICIALS WHO WERE WITH HIM. ²AND ALL THE KING'S SERVANTS WHO WERE AT THE KING'S GATE BOWED DOWN AND PAID HOMAGE TO HAMAN, FOR THE KING HAD SO COMMANDED CONCERNING HIM. BUT MORDECAI DID NOT BOW DOWN OR PAY HOMAGE... ⁵...HAMAN WAS FILLED WITH FURY. ⁶BUT HE DISDAINED TO LAY HANDS ON MORDECAI ALONE. SO, AS THEY HAD MADE KNOWN TO HIM THE PEOPLE OF MORDECAI, HAMAN SOUGHT TO DESTROY ALL THE JEWS, THE PEOPLE OF MORDECAI, THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE KINGDOM OF AHASUERUS. —ESTHER 3:1-2, 5b-6

.013.tiff

.014.tiff

MORDECAI WAS SAYING:

- YOUR POSITION IS NOT ACCIDENTAL.
- YOUR OPPORTUNITY IS NOT RANDOM.
- GOD MAY HAVE PLACED YOU HERE FOR THIS MOMENT.

“WHO KNOWS WHETHER YOU HAVE COME TO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?”
—ESTHER 4:14

.015.tiff

3. THE COURAGE OF ESTHER

.016.tiff

¹⁵THEN ESTHER TOLD THEM TO REPLY TO MORDECAI,
¹⁶“GO, GATHER ALL THE JEWS TO BE FOUND IN SUSAN,
 AND HOLD A FAST ON MY BEHALF, AND DO NOT EAT
 OR DRINK FOR THREE DAYS, NIGHT OR DAY.
 I AND MY YOUNG WOMEN WILL ALSO FAST AS YOU DO.
 THEN I WILL GO TO THE KING, THOUGH IT IS
 AGAINST THE LAW, AND IF I PERISH, I PERISH.”
¹⁷MORDECAI THEN WENT AWAY AND DID EVERYTHING
 AS ESTHER HAD ORDERED HIM. —ESTHER 4:15-17

.017.tiff

“ESTHER WAS NOT A
 MOTHER, BUT SHE WAS
 CERTAINLY A WOMAN
 OF INFLUENCE. JUST LIKE
 MANY GODLY MOTHERS,
 SHE HAD PURPOSEFUL
 INFLUENCE, WISE
 DISCERNMENT, AND
 FEARLESS COURAGE.”

.018.tiff

4. THE CORONATION OF MORDECAI

.019.tiff

AND THE KING SAID,
 “WHAT HONOR
 OR DISTINCTION
 HAS BEEN BESTOWED
 ON MORDECAI FOR THIS?”
 THE KING’S YOUNG MEN
 WHO ATTENDED HIM SAID,
 “NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE
 FOR HIM.” —ESTHER 6:3

.020.tiff

³THEN QUEEN ESTHER ANSWERED,
 “IF I HAVE FOUND FAVOR IN YOUR SIGHT, O KING,
 AND IF IT PLEASE THE KING, LET MY LIFE BE GRANTED ME
 FOR MY WISH, AND MY PEOPLE FOR MY REQUEST.
⁴FOR WE HAVE BEEN SOLD, I AND MY PEOPLE, TO BE DESTROYED,
 TO BE KILLED, AND TO BE ANNIHILATED. IF WE
 HAD BEEN SOLD MERELY AS SLAVES, MEN AND WOMEN,
 I WOULD HAVE BEEN SILENT, FOR OUR AFFLICTION
 IS NOT TO BE COMPARED WITH THE LOSS TO THE KING.”
⁵THEN KING AHASUERUS SAID TO QUEEN ESTHER,
 “WHO IS HE, AND WHERE IS HE, WHO HAS DARED TO DO THIS?”
⁶AND ESTHER SAID, “A FOE AND ENEMY! THIS WICKED HAMAN!”
 THEN HAMAN WAS TERRIFIED BEFORE THE KING
 AND THE QUEEN. —ESTHER 7:3-6

.021.tiff

¹⁵THEN MORDECAI WENT OUT FROM THE PRESENCE
 OF THE KING IN ROYAL ROBES OF BLUE AND WHITE,
 WITH A GREAT GOLDEN CROWN AND A ROBE OF FINE LINEN
 AND PURPLE, AND THE CITY OF SUSAN SHOUTED AND REJOICED.
¹⁶THE JEWS HAD LIGHT AND GLADNESS AND JOY AND HONOR...
³FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS SECOND IN RANK
 TO KING AHASUERUS, AND HE WAS GREAT AMONG THE JEWS
 AND POPULAR WITH THE MULTITUDE OF HIS BROTHERS,
 FOR HE SOUGHT THE WELFARE OF HIS PEOPLE AND
 SPOKE PEACE TO ALL HIS PEOPLE. —ESTHER 8:15-16, 10:3

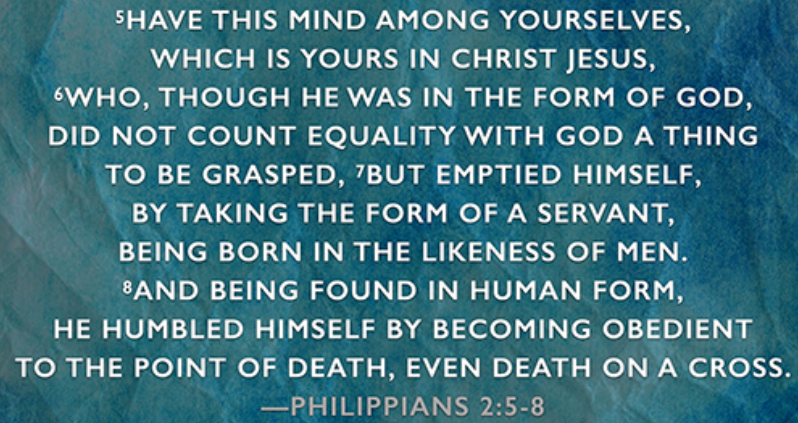
.022.tiff

5. THE CONCLUSION FOR US

.023.tiff

“GOD HAS OPENED OPPORTUNITIES TO OPTIMIZE
 HIS KINGDOM PURPOSES. HE DIDN'T PLACE YOU OR ME
 WHERE WE ARE SO WE COULD EAT FIGS ALL DAY LONG OR
 POST PICTURES ON SOCIAL MEDIA. HE'S PLACED US WHEREVER
 WE ARE BECAUSE WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A BATTLE, A WAR.
 YOU AND I ARE IN THE MIDST OF A SEISMIC CONFLICT
 INVOLVING GOOD VERSUS EVIL. TO MISS A KINGDOM ASSIGNMENT
 BECAUSE WE'VE BECOME TOO CAUGHT UP IN OUR PERSONAL
 KINGDOM IS ONE OF THE GREATEST TRAGEDIES WE COULD
 EVER FACE. AN ENTIRE NATION WAS GRATEFUL FOR HOW ESTHER
 RESPONDED TO MORDECAI'S REBUKE. THEIR LIVES WERE SPARED.
 HOW MANY SOULS CAN BE SPARED IN THE CULTURE WHERE
 WE LIVE TODAY WHEN WE CHOOSE TO STEP UP TO SERVICE,
 EVEN IF IT INVOLVES SACRIFICE?” —TONY EVANS

.024.tiff



⁵HAVE THIS MIND AMONG YOURSELVES,
WHICH IS YOURS IN CHRIST JESUS,
⁶WHO, THOUGH HE WAS IN THE FORM OF GOD,
DID NOT COUNT EQUALITY WITH GOD A THING
TO BE GRASPED, ⁷BUT EMPTIED HIMSELF,
BY TAKING THE FORM OF A SERVANT,
BEING BORN IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN.
⁸AND BEING FOUND IN HUMAN FORM,
HE HUMBLER HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT
TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.
—PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

.025.tiff