

The Power of Love

The Book of Esther

**Esther knew the blessed
power of self-forgetfulness
and the freedom
of self-denial.**

Ahasuerus (Xerxes) - the King of Persia

And drinking was according to this edict: “There is no compulsion.” For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired.

Esther 1:8

Vashti - the queen

But 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.

Esther 1:12

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

**Mordecai - Esther's wise
and loving, older cousin**

**Esther - adopted
Jewish orphan who
becomes queen**

Haman - the prime minister, nemesis of the Jews

Two Types of Pride

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The pride of superiority - I'm better than others.

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The pride of superiority - I'm better than others.

The pride of inferiority - I must be accepted and approved.

“Pride is the absorption of self. A ruthless, sleepless, unsmiling concentration of the self.”

C.S. Lewis

"For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, 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."

Esther 4:16

“Yet all this is worth nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.”

Esther 5:13

"...the praise of the praiseworthy is above all rewards."

R.J. Tolkien

Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews.

Esther 8:3

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

1 John 4:18

**We must be captured by
the explosive power of a
new affection and driven
by a greater love.**

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

This is real love—not that we loved God,
but that He loved us and sent His Son
as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:10 NLT