



DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH
Part 12 – Esther Saves God’s People
Seek God’s Approval Over Worldly Applause

New Horizon Church September 17, 2023 Pastor John Raymond

1. Live life without self-imposed _____.

Esther 2:5-9 (NLT), “⁵ At that time there was a **Jewish man** in the fortress of Susa whose name was **Mordecai** son of Jair. He was from the tribe of **Benjamin**...⁷ This man had a very **beautiful** and lovely young **cousin**, **Hadassah**, who was also called **Esther**. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter. ⁸ As a result of the king’s decree, Esther, along with many other young women, was brought to the king’s harem at the fortress of Susa and placed in Hegai’s care. ⁹ Hegai was **very impressed with Esther** and treated her kindly. He quickly ordered a **special menu** for her and provided her with **beauty treatments**. He also assigned her seven maids **specially chosen** from the king’s palace, and he moved her and her maids into the **best place** in the harem. ¹⁰ Esther had **not told anyone** of her **nationality** and family background, because Mordecai had directed her not to do so.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a **new person**. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

2. _____ boldly for your faith.

Esther 3:1-2, 5-6 (NLT), “Sometime later King Xerxes promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the **Agagite** over all the other nobles, making him the most powerful official in the empire. ² All the king’s officials would bow down before Haman to show him respect whenever he passed by, for so the king had commanded. But **Mordecai refused to bow down** or show him respect. ⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, **he was filled with rage**. ⁶ He had learned of **Mordecai’s nationality**, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to **destroy all the Jews** throughout the entire empire of Xerxes.”

Psalm 33:12 (NIV), “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.”

3. Seek God’s approval over worldly _____.

Psalm 37:23 (NLT), “The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.”

Esther 4:13-16 (NLT), “¹³ Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. ¹⁴ If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. **Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?**” ¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. **If I must die, I must die.**”

4. Position yourself for God’s _____.

Esther 7:3-10 (NLT), “³ Queen Esther replied, “If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, **I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared**. ⁴ For my people and I have been sold to those who would kill, slaughter, and annihilate us. If we had merely been sold as slaves, I could remain quiet, for that would be too trivial a matter to warrant disturbing the king.” ⁵ “Who would do such a thing?” King Xerxes demanded. “Who would be so presumptuous as to touch you?” ⁶ Esther replied, “This wicked Haman is our adversary and our enemy.”