

## Meditations from Esther (2): passivity to activity to authority

### *In the book of Esther*

1. passivity:
  - a. raised by Mordecai; taken (2.8, 16); does what is told (2.10), takes advice (2.15)
  - b. (transition – 4.8 and 13-14 – M begins to argue rather than simply command; E begins to send, inquire, command)
2. activity:
  - a. 4.15-17: “she resolves to do her duty and a change comes immediately upon her” (Fox – as is much of this). Acting as national and religious leader.
  - b. chaps 5-7 – her plan (hers, not M’s) – careful, subtle, effective. Her word is prevailing (5.5)
3. authority:
  - a. chaps 8-9: 8.1-2 – H’s estate; 8.7 – co-heroes; 9.32 – last word on Purim

### *Growing us up to be kings and queens*

- overlooked theme in Bible though we’ve been seeing it in Hebrews (glory to glory; holy warfare; sin and redemption)
- Adam and Eve; Israel (Hos 11, Ezek 16); Solomon and Proverbs
- the Lord Jesus Christ himself; Paul’s ambitions for Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians
- a multi-dimensional and multi-staged project (maturity can mean passivity – Is 53.7; Acts 9.16)
- a moral project (not knowledge, or position, or others’ views of you)
- a corporate project (Eph 4.14-16; 1 Thess 5.14-15); the Jews grow up in Esther
- a Christ-centred project – conformed to the likeness of the firstborn (Rom 8.29); grow into Him (Eph 4)
- a Word and Spirit project (nourished and directed by the Word; animated and enlivened by the Spirit)
- a certain project – when we see him we shall be like him (so ...). Our destiny is our calling and v.v.

### *Passivity to activity to authority – various dimensions*

In Esther chapters	Esther is marked by	which is righteous because it accompanied by	and contrasts both with Ahasuerus the	and also with	so that Esther is free from	and the result of this is that she	which in wider biblical theology relates to the role/zone of
2-3	passivity	humility	show-off with a drive to impress	the false passivity of self-hatred	anxiety	wins the favour of the king	priest / garden
4-7	activity	trust	control freak with a compulsion to control	the false activity of activism	anger	gets a decision from the king	king / land
8-9	authority	true identity and servanthood	big baby with a refusal of maturity	the false authority of tyranny	fear / guilt	rules on behalf of the king	prophet / world

A look at ourselves ...

And a longer look at Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Greater Esther (and Mordecai):

- his life is the perfect example of these things – meditate on this and adore him
- his death is the perfect atonement for failure in these things– believe this and adore him
- his resurrection is the perfect power to work these things in us – rejoice in this, claim it and adore him.

Write these words by drawing a line inside the letters:

King Ahasuerus gave to  
Queen Esther the house  
of Haman.

Put a tick in the box each time you hear the words **grow up**

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1. It's great to be alive but we're also meant to g\_\_\_\_ u\_\_
2. At the beginning things just happened to Esther. Other p\_\_\_\_\_ were in ch\_\_\_\_\_
3. In the middle Esther was taking action. She began to m\_\_\_\_ things h\_\_\_\_\_
4. By the end Esther had been given authority. She was put in the p\_\_\_\_\_ of r\_\_\_\_\_
5. You are active when you look for w\_\_\_ to s\_\_\_\_\_ and don't just wait to be a\_\_\_\_\_
6. Write down a thought or feeling you could "boot out for Jesus" :

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**An ABC of Esther** (chapter by chapter). Learn them this week if you can.

1. Ahasuerus the show-off
2. Beautiful Esther
3. Cruel, genocidal Haman
4. Distress and discussion
5. Esther holds a banquet
6. Favour for Mordecai (Haman goes 'grrr')
7. Game over for Haman
8. Haman's house handed over and his edict headed off
9. Invincible Jews and the feast of Purim
10. Just like Joseph and Jesus: the greatness of Mordecai