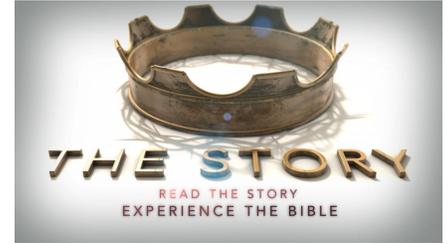


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for July 4, 2021:
Chapter 20: The Queen of Beauty and Courage



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. This weekend celebrates our nation's independence. What are fond memories you have of July 4th? Any special traditions? How will your family celebrate this year?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

9 Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, 11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Esther 4:9-17

1. What were some of the cultural norms and laws that came into play in this chapter, and why is it important for believers today to understand our culture as we seek to be God's presence and messengers of his grace?
2. What drives a person like Haman and how have you had to negotiate a relationship with a person with similar motivations? What wisdom would you give a Christian who is working, living, or existing around a Haman-like personality?
3. What characteristics marked the life of Mordecai? What have you found helpful as you seek to grow closer to God by reflecting his character in your life?
4. What strikes you about Esther's character, how she related to people, and the risks she took?
5. When was a time you faced a situation that seemed hopeless, but God miraculously turned things around? What helped you see God's presence and power at work as you walked through

this situation?

6. Esther resolved to approach the king, reveal her national identity, and make an appeal for her people - despite the great risk involved. Read 1 John 5:14. What parallels do you see between Esther's approach before the king, and our own approach before God's throne? What differences do you see?

- **SERVE** *others*

God did not remove the danger of attack on the Jews, but provided a chance for them to fight back and defend themselves. Are there people in our country right now that need an ally to stand with them against injustice, to defend themselves. Consider how you can pray for them and enter the battle with the weapons of God's Word and God's love.

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**