

## Esther 9:18-10:3 The Legacy of Mordecai

And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea. <sup>2</sup> Now all the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? <sup>3</sup> For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

As the book of Esther closes - it closes with a tribute to this man Mordecai.

A) We have seen in our study that though this book bears the name of Esther -

B) it is as much, if not more about this man Mordecai

He is in many ways the real Hero of the story.

C) Notice what we are told about Mordecai and his legacy

D) He advanced in the Kingdom of Persia - **2<sup>nd</sup> in command**

- He was great among the Jews
- He was well received by the multitude of his brethren,
- He sought the good of his people
- He spoke peace to all his countrymen.

E) That is a great legacy! –

As we close out our study in the book of Esther today - today being Father's Day

A) I want to reflect at some traits that we have seen in Mordecai over the course of our study that point to him being a good and godly father.

**“A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.” Billy Graham**

B) 5 traits I want to draw your attention to ... see in Mordecai

**#1 Mordecai didn't run from responsibility**

A) Mordecai is introduced to us in this story in chapter 2 - one of the first things we are told about him in v.7 is <sup>7</sup> *And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother....* When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

B) His cousin Esther becomes an orphan - and He steps up and takes her in and raises her as his own daughter.

1) Mordecai didn't run from responsibility - **he ran to it!**

C) Even though this was going to make his life harder and more complicated - that didn't matter

One of the problems that I often see in men in the church is they are passive in their home.

A) Not spiritual leaders - they think - I work all day - my wife can take care of discipline and nurturing

B) Started with Adam - The Passiveness of Adam

1) She gave it to her husband who was with her

C) Passivity of men - not taking responsibility - is a problem in our culture today and it is a problem in the church as well

D) When Christian men are passive their families suffer!

1) But when Christian men - grab a hold of their responsibility to be leaders in their home - their families flourish.

A study done by Focus on the Family reported that, if a child is the first in a family to become a Christian, there's a 3.5% probability that the other members of the family will become Christians. If a mother is the first..., there's a 17% probability.....Christians.

But, if the father is the first member of a family to become a Christian, there's a 93% probability that the other members of the family will follow him into the faith.

**Dad's WE can't be passive - We are called to be servant leaders in our homes!**

**#1 Mordecai didn't run from responsibility**

**#2 Mordecai - gave wise counsel -**

A)When Esther was forced to be in the beauty pageant - Mordecai - **told her to not tell anyone she was Jewish.**

B)It wasn't that he was ashamed of being Jewish - we see him in the very next chapter - standing tall in his Jewish faith

1)Not bowing to wicked Haman - because he was a Jew.

C)But for Esther - he didn't want her being in a place where she would subject herself to unnecessary to persecution or attention.

D)Dads give wise counsel

**My dream in High School was to either play professional baseball or to coach baseball at the collegiate level.**

A)Freshman year - Believers meeting

B)Went to my dad - wise counsel - **You will not be happy until you are doing what the Lord wants you to be doing.**

C)That was it - everything changed - quit the next day!!

**Here is what is interesting: 38yrs later - My dad was in the hospital - about 2 weeks before he went home to be with the Lord**

A)Private moment - conversation - we were talking about that moment - his advice.

B)You know -I knew it was the right thing to tell you, but that is not what I wanted to tell you -

1)I thought you were good enough to make it into the pros -

C)blew my mind - in 38 yrs - he never told me that was how he felt

**Testimony: Godly Dad's will tell you what you NEED to hear - THE TRUTH -**

A)not what you want to hear.

B)Psalm 127 was written by King Solomon who declared in Psalm 127:3-4

3 Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb *is* a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so *are* the children of one's youth.

C)Psalm 127:4 shows us that not only do our children **need to be loved, they need to be aimed.**

1)Solomon writes that our children are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

D)Arrows are only valuable if they are aimed in the right direction.

**NOW Aiming is not the arrow's job - it is the job of the warrior.**

A)Dad/ grandpa - you are one of the Warriors in your child's life aiming them.

B)Are you aiming them in the right direction?

Here is the sad confession of one father who didn't aim his kids in the right direction

"I took my children to school but not to church. I taught them to drink but not of the living water. I enrolled them in Little League but not Sunday School. I showed them how to fish but not to be fisher of men. I made the Lord's Day a holiday, rather than a holy day."

"I taught them the church was full of hypocrites and made the greater hypocrite of them and me.

"I gave them a color TV but provided no Bible. I handed them the keys to the car but did not give to them the keys of the kingdom of God. I taught them how to make a living but failed to bring them to Christ who alone can make a life."

**Listen - DADS MAKE AN IMPACT -**

A)GODLY MEN MAKE A GODLY IMPACT

B)One way is we speak the truth - tell them what they need to hear - not just what they want to hear.

1)Fathers as friends is great - my dad was my best friend - but you are a father first and a friend 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**#3 Mordecai knew there were times when all he could do is pray -**

A)When Esther was in the contest - Mordecai was helpless - nothing he could do for her

B)He couldn't protect her - We saw him in Chapter 2 everyday Mordecai was pacing in front of the women's quarters - report

1)No doubt pacing and praying

C) There comes these times in a dad's life - where all you can do is pray.

1) You are not in a place to step in - can't be the counselor any more .... the hero - But you can pray

**When Your child heads off to school - can't be that Helicopter parent - pray**

A) They go to college - peer pressure - prof's with agenda's - can't go with them - PRAY

B) first Job - DIFFICULT BOSS - you want to give him a piece of your mind -

1) meet in the alley after work - waiting at his car - NO - PRAY

C) Your Child gets married - especially dads with daughters - you want them in a relationship - loved - taken care of

1) But you have no idea what is going on behind closed doors - PRAY

**If you are going to be a man of prayer in those situations -**

A) It starts now when they are still in the home!

B) The best thing you can do for your kids is to pray for them!

Being a father who prays isn't the same thing as being a praying father. A father who prays takes actions. A praying father builds godly character. He's in a constant and authentic exchange with a real and present God. Kent Evans - Manhood Journey

C) I would love to see men in this church become praying fathers - bonding together to regularly pray for their kids

**#4 Mordecai knew how to help his daughter see the Big picture - and how to inspire her. - For Such a time as this**

A) Mordecai saw clearly what Esther didn't see at first

B) In order to see the big picture - we need to be clued into the big picture and have the mind of Christ

C) Big Picture: We talked about this in our Colossians study on Wednesday night - All things were created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16

**D) Dads that is one of the best things we can teach our kids - they were made by God and for God.**

E) They exist to bring him pleasure - For His glory! - Big picture!

**When a child grabs a hold of that reality - School at every level becomes a mission field**

A) Job is not their identity - calling - sphere of influence -

B) It is their opportunity to make their mark in this world for the Kingdom of God!

C) We read in the book of Genesis how God gave the first married couple Adam and Eve - a mission.

1) A mission that applies to all of us - His Blessing to us - God blessed them and said them ....

**It was there that God declared that we were created in the image of God**

A) We are called to be image bearers of God

B) This is the mission God gave them - us - Love God - Love others - take care of what God has placed into your hands

C) That is the Big Picture - We are to pass on to our Kids!

**You are where you are for a purpose that is bigger than your personal happiness and fulfillment**

A) Bigger than just having a career - making money - able to buy nice things

B) Teach them to be looking for those: For such a time as this moments

1) This is why I am here!

C) This is the plan and purpose - Now I understand

D) But don't just teach it - live your life that way as well.

**"The question is not will our kids follow our example. The question is, what example are we giving them to follow?" - Eric Ballard**

**A man once asked his father, 'Father, how will I ever find the right woman?' His father replied, 'Forget finding the right woman, focus on being**

the right man'." **BIG PIC STUFF RIGHT THERE**

E) So Fathers help their kids see the big picture!!!!

**#5 Mordecai Helped the People remember what was important**

A) IN Esther 9:18-32 Mordecai - a father to the nation

**B) Context - Remember last week the day came for the edit of Haman to be enforced -**

1) All the Jews - were to be annihilated on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March

C) But remember the King gave Mordecai permission to write a new edict that said

D) on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March - Adar - The Jewish people in Persia had the right to defend themselves

1) from anyone who would seek to do them harm.

**We saw that is what happened -**

A) 3 million Jews were spared

B) and relatively speaking a small number of anti-Semitic Persians were killed

1) BY The Jews who defended themselves

C) Chapter 9:18-32 reveals how Mordecai instructed the Jews to institute a holiday remembering this event

18 But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of the month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.

20 And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, 21 to establish among them that they should **celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth** days of the month of Adar, 22 as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from

mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.

23 So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them, 24 because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot), to consume them and destroy them; 25 but when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which Haman had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

26 So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them, 27 the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time, 28 that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants.

29 Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abi/hail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim. 30 And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, 31 to confirm these days of Purim at their appointed time, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had prescribed for them, and as they had decreed for themselves and their descendants concerning matters of their fasting and lamenting. 32 So the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

**So Mordecai and Esther wrote that these days of Remembrance would be instituted into the Jewish culture - FOREVER**

A)Did you know Purim is still celebrated to this day by the Jewish people

B)The Bible commands us to remember 240 times?

C)That is one thing that was very important to God! His people would remember His works and his word.

D)So when there was a major event that happened in the nation of Israel - **God would call them to remember it - every year.**

1)Feast and Festivals were formed - that reminded the people of Israel of God's provision and protection

There were other times like with the crossing of the Jordan River -in the book of Joshua -

A)Instructed to Build a Memorial - purpose Remember and teach

B)When your kids ask you can tell them about what God did here.

C)Mordecai is well aware of this Principle and the importance of Remembering -

1)so he wrote to the Jews that they should celebrate every year - this feast called Purim

Purim is taken from the word Pur that we read about in ch.3 - Pur = lots -

A)they cast lots to determine when the day of execution would be

B)11 months later during the month of Adar (March) on the 13<sup>th</sup> day

C)So the Jewish people began to celebrate there in Persia the feast of Purim -

Today, the Jews begin their celebration with a fast on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month commemorating the date on which Haman's evil decree was issued

A)They go to the synagogue and hear the Book of Esther publicly read;

B)and whenever the name of Haman is mentioned, they cry out, "May he be accursed!" or "May his name perish!"

C)Children bring a special Purim rattle called a "gre/gar" and use it to make noise every time they hear Haman's name read.

1)The Children will also hiss like a snake when his name is read - he was a snake like man

On the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month, the Jews again go to the synagogue,

A)where the Esther story is read again and the congregation engages in prayer.

B)The story about Moses and the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8-16) is also read.

C)Then the people go home to a festive holiday meal with gifts and special foods,

1)and the celebrating continues on the next day.

D)They also send gifts and food to the poor and needy so that everybody can rejoice together.

So Mordecai is acting in the role of a father to the nation - in saying - **We need to remember this- the faithfulness of God**

A)That is the role of a dad - help his family remember the faithfulness of God

B)And when God gave instructions for the teaching and training of Children -

1)the Jewish people realized that those instructions were first and foremost directed to the fathers.

C)A father's responsibilities to his son are outlined in the Talmud, *Kiddushin 29a*.

D)According to the text, a father is obligated to circumcise his son, **to redeem him if he is the firstborn, to teach him Torah, to find him a wife, and to teach him a trade.**

E)Fathers responsibility to train -

Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding; Proverbs 4:1

<sup>8</sup> And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? <sup>9</sup> Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. **And teach them to your children and your grandchildren.** Deuteronomy 4:8-9

What are we teaching our kids?

## One guy's recollection of what he learned from his Dad

- **My dad taught me about religion** - "You better pray that stain will come out of the carpet!"
- **My dad taught me about behavior modification** - "Stop acting like your brother!"
- **My dad taught me about time travel** - "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
- **My dad taught me about logic** - "Because I said so, that's why."
- **My dad taught me about the weather** - "It looks like a tornado swept through this room!"
- **My dad taught me about the circle of life** - "I brought you into this world and I can take you out!"

Men we can do better than that !!!

<sup>6</sup>"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.  
Deuteronomy 6:6-9

<sup>19</sup>You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.  
Deuteronomy 11:19

## Look for teaching moments all through the day

A) Sitting, walking, driving, - playing -

B) My dad was so good that - Great teacher

C) Here are some things that I learned from observing my dad

## He taught me what it means for a man to love God:

A) Taught me the importance of being a man of the Word - see him reading it - talk about it

B) Taught me that it is ok for a man to show emotion – cry in Church or reading his Bible

C) Taught me: It is better to give than to receive –  
1) One of the most generous and selfless individuals I know

## He taught me about integrity – letting your yes be yes and your no be no

A) He taught me about honor – Standing up in support for what you believe and those that you love !

B) Taught me what it means to be a hard worker: how to be resourceful

1) Taught me what it means to balance family & work/ none better always there

C) He taught me how to preserve & never give up.

## D) He taught me how to be wise with finances –

E) He taught me how to love my wife!

## That is what I observed in watching my dad

A) As well as those little conversation moments - along the way

B) Great man - miss him dearly - He left a huge legacy!

C) Guys we only get one shot - - Lets purpose in our hearts to be men -who lead well - AMEN