

## Esther - Both Father and Mother

Esther 3 ❖ Romans 9:1-5

“This is a chapter in the life of the Jew that has been duplicated many, many times. When you read this chapter, you can almost substitute the name of Pharaoh or Hitler instead of Haman. There has never been a time that there has not been a movement somewhere to exterminate the Jewish people.”  
 (“Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther,” J. Vernon McGee, p. 199)

### God’s Provision

My Uncle David, who died two weeks ago, played a significant role in the lives of his two \_\_\_\_\_. When his first wife \_\_\_\_\_, their son Michael was only five years old. When his second wife \_\_\_\_\_, their son Chris was thirteen years old. So my Uncle had to be both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to his two sons. My cousin Chris told me that he often gave his Dad a Father’s Day and a \_\_\_\_\_ Day card.

In the book of Esther, we read that a man named Mordecai played a similar \_\_\_\_\_ in the life of his cousin \_\_\_\_\_, who providentially becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Persia in order to save the lives of the \_\_\_\_\_.

“Mordecai had a \_\_\_\_\_ named Esther, who was \_\_\_\_\_ in form and features, whom he had brought up because she had neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_. Mordecai had taken her as his \_\_\_\_\_ daughter when her father and mother had \_\_\_\_\_” (Esther 2:7).

### Tension

Some \_\_\_\_\_ years after Esther’s \_\_\_\_\_, a very wicked man named Haman came to power in Persia as \_\_\_\_\_ Minister.

“All the royal officials at the King’s gate \_\_\_\_\_ down and paid \_\_\_\_\_ to Haman, for King Xerxes had \_\_\_\_\_ this concerning him. But Mordecai would \_\_\_\_\_ kneel down or pay him honor” (Esther 3:2). Haman soon planned a \_\_\_\_\_, a day to \_\_\_\_\_ all the Jews and \_\_\_\_\_ their goods (v. 13).

There was a constant \_\_\_\_\_ between Mordecai’s \_\_\_\_\_ and his job, just as there \_\_\_\_\_ be a constant tension between our religious \_\_\_\_\_ and our jobs - as employees, students, citizens, etc.

In Romans 9, Paul explained how God had blessed the Jewish people: “Theirs is the \_\_\_\_\_ as sons, the divine \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the receiving of the \_\_\_\_\_, the Temple \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the human ancestry of \_\_\_\_\_.”

Two reasons Mordecai refused to bow down before Haman:

1) “You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ down or worship an idol, for I am a \_\_\_\_\_ God” (Exodus 20:5).

2) Haman was an Agagite (Esther 3:1), ancient \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.

Though Mordecai had \_\_\_\_\_ Esther from revealing her \_\_\_\_\_ identity, he had no problem telling the \_\_\_\_\_ officials his Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ prevented him from \_\_\_\_\_ down before Haman.

As a result, Mordecai \_\_\_\_\_ Esther there are certain situations and times when your faith must \_\_\_\_\_ everything else.

### Takeaway

Like Mordecai, we need to \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in certain behaviors in our own nation, one that is increasingly \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

Mothers and Mother-figures, are you \_\_\_\_\_ the children in your life there are certain situations and times when your faith must \_\_\_\_\_ everything else?!

### Mother’s Day Prayer

*On this day of sacred memories, our Father, we would thank Thee for our mothers, who gave us life, who surrounded us early and late with love and care, whose prayers on our behalf still cling around the Throne of Grace, a haunting perfume of love’s petitions.*

*Help us, their children, to be more worthy of their love. We know that no sentimentality on this day, no material gifts, no flowers or boxes of candy can atone for our neglect during the rest of the year. So, in the days ahead, may our love speak to the hearts who know love best by kindness, by compassion, by simple courtesy, and by daily thoughtfulness.*

*Bless her whose name we whisper before Thee and keep her in Thy perfect peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Peter Marshall (1903-1949)  
Presbyterian Minister and Chaplain of the United States Senate



Rev. Dr. Tim Foster † May 14, 2023