

Esther - The Ultimate Sacrifice

Esther 5 ❖ John 15:13

“We have only one story. All novels, all poetry are built on the never-ending contest in ourselves of good and evil.”
(John Steinbeck)

The Four Chaplains

On February 3, 1943, the U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester was one of three vessels in a convoy moving across the _____ Ocean from Newfoundland, Canada to an American _____ in Greenland. 902 Servicemen, Merchant Marines and civilians were onboard.

The ship was only 150 miles from her destination when, shortly after _____, a Nazi _____ launched a torpedo. The initial blast _____ scores of men and seriously _____ many more. The rest of the men, stunned by the explosion, were groping in the _____ trying to find their way topside. Many were still in their underwear, shivering from the cold arctic _____.

Through the pandemonium, four _____ spread out among the men - calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were LT George Fox, a _____ minister, LT Alexander Goode, a _____ rabbi, LT John Washington, a _____ priest, and LT Clark Poling, a Dutch _____ pastor.

The Chaplains began distributing _____ . When there were no more, they simultaneously removed _____ and gave them to four frightened young men. One survivor called it “the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of _____.”

As the ship went down, survivors in life boats could see the four Chaplains - arms _____ and bracing themselves against the slanting deck - offering _____ and singing _____.

They couldn't be given the Medal of _____, because it is only presented to those who display heroism under _____, but a posthumous special medal for heroism, The _____ Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961.

“Jesus said, ‘Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his _____ for his _____’” (John 15:13).

“If I perish, I perish”

Esther's story is another _____ story of someone who risked her _____ for the sake of her countrymen.

“Esther told Mordecia to ask all the _____ in Susa to _____ for her for three days and nights. She and her ladies-in-waiting would also _____. Then she would go to the _____, even though it was against the _____, to _____ for her people. And if I _____, I _____” (Esther 4:16).

“On the _____ day Esther put on her _____ robes and stood in the _____ court of the King's hall, where he was sitting on his _____. When he saw _____ Esther, he was _____ with her and held out to the gold _____ that was in his hand. So Esther approached and _____ the tip of the scepter” (Esther 5:1-2).

“The King asked, ‘What is it, Queen Esther? What is your _____? Even up to _____ the kingdom, it will be given you’” (v. 3).

“If it _____ the King,” Esther replied, “let the King, together with _____, come today to a _____ I have prepared for him.” They joined Esther and started drinking _____. Teasingly she asked the King to come back the next day to find out what she _____. It was _____, to say the least, but the King was hooked. (vv. 4-8).

Suspense and Anticipation

“Haman left the banquet in high _____” - without a _____ as to what Esther was planning for him - “but when Mordecai neither _____ nor showed _____ in his presence, he was filled with _____. He told his wife and friends that being the King's favorite gave him no satisfaction as long as Mordecai was _____” (vv. 9-13).

They told him to have a tall _____ built for _____. (v. 14)

Takeaway

“O beautiful for _____ proved in liberating strife,
Who more than _____ their country loved,
And mercy more than _____!”

As American Christians are we living _____ lives?

