

## OLD TESTAMENT WOMEN | ESTHER

Driving the Van back from Bluff Story, Easy on Open Road, get to the roundabout, things get very real very fast, very fast.

Chapter 1 – King throws a Big Party – The King is Drunkard, Push over (only decisions he makes, let Esther live when she enters the court, and to go to her party.) Angers Easily – Hands off Leadership style - demands his wife parade around to show herself off to his court – His wife rightly refuses – and is kicked out of the castle

Chapter 2 – The King want's a new queen - holds a beauty contest to find her – Esther is looked after by Cousin Mordechai, dead parents, Esther is Young ish because she Isn't married, told to hide her Jewish Heritage Esther is selected – Mordecai uncovers an assassination plot on the king.

Chapter 3 – Haman is promoted Enemy to the Jewish People– Mordechai refuses to bow – Haman convinces king to kill Jews

Chapter 4 – Mordechai and Esther make plans to save their people

Mordecai asks Esther to go to the king and convince him to change his mind.

Esther faces the possibility of Death. We know the temperament of the king. He has not been interested in her for a month. Like approaching a CEO about his new Work place policy when you know they do not want to see you, and you die if they are not happy. Esther is rightly hesitant. For Esther, she's just reached her roundabout and things have just gotten real.

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. (Esther won't be safe from Hamans Plot) And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

15 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

Chapter 5 – Esther invites the king and Haman to a banquet– Mordechai doesn't acknowledge Haman on his way out - Haman plots to kill Mordechai

Chapter 6 – King can't sleep - listens to the scrolls – asks Haman to reward Mordechai – Can't kill him because he's been honoured by the king.

Chapter 7 – Esthers 2nd Banquet – Dobs Haman in – King orders Haman to be executed

Chapter 8,9,10 – Esther and Mordechai create law allowing Jews to defend themselves

Good Story ae - Lucky

We know it wasn't luck. We often have these Huge Heroes in the Bible, David, Moses, Abraham, these extremely Godly Men, Lead Nations, Heard God Speak. I really Like Esther, probably the most relatable Hero ever. She is herself. No special Talent, not deeply Spiritual, actively trying to Hide her Faith. uniquely positioned by God to Save her people, because he knows the bigger picture. God knows what is going to happen long before we do. Mordecai Nails it - And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? Esther Response, yup if something bad happens because of me trying, so be it.

We are obviously not placed in royalty so Let's change this a wee bit

And who knows but that you have come to \_\_\_\_\_ for such a time as \_\_\_\_\_?"

If you had told 10 year old me on the day that i walked in here 'who knows but that you have come to ICBC for such a time as to basically create all the positive events in your life' I would have thought you were nuts. I just went here because that's where mum told me we were going to church. But because of that I met someone who got me to lead at a camp, where I discovered I love working with young people. I met my soon to be wife walking down the road to a lads group for guys at this youth group. I'm doing youth work in my old



school because I went to this church. You told me that 10 years ago, I would have told mum about the weirdo at church I met that day. But looking back now, that had God written all over the bigger picture of my life.

A dream of mine is for there to be mentioned in someone else's conversation about how they had a really cool leader who really impacted their life. That's not a conversation I'll ever know about. But that doesn't mean God won't or maybe already has placed me there for that person.

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## REFLECTION + DISCUSSION

Where is your place that God has placed you?

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Why could you be placed there?

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**CENTRAL BAPTIST**

LOVE GOD : LOVE OTHERS