

A Bold Request

Esther 7

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“Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.’” (vs. 3)

One thing that I love about Queen Esther is she is full of Godly wisdom. In Proverbs 31, we read about women of wisdom. Verses 25-27 say: “She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.” This is Esther-strong, full of dignity, speaking with wisdom, watching over the affairs of her household.

Queen Esther executes wisdom in the way she approaches the King with her request. She doesn’t just go storming before him demanding audience and care for her people, the Jews. She starts with fasting and prayer. She humbly requests that the King come to a banquet (and wisely invites the enemy as well). She feeds the King more than one night. Then she makes a request and she does it not from boastful pride, but from servant-like humility. Don’t mistake her approach as cowardice. This woman risks her life to make a bold request.

Esther’s approach makes me consider our approach to prayer. Our God is named King of Kings. When we go before him with a bold request in prayer, how do we do it? Often, I know that I march headlong into a tirade of a speech telling God what God ought to do to make the world right in my life and the lives of others. It seems bold, but really it is more like Haman’s boasting than Esther’s boldness. How much bolder would my prayers be if I approached God like Esther approaches the King? What if instead of bold speech, we began with fasting. Then prayed saying “Lord, if it pleases you, I’d like to banquet with you. I’d like to spend some time fellowshiping in your presence.” And then after simply being present with God for a few days, made a request of God in servant-like humility. I think we’d find our faith growing in the process. I think we’d find prayers that carry the power and boldness of Esther’s request. What most consumes you? What prayer do you continually pray? Could you try praying it with Esther’s boldness this week?