

ESTHER

If the story were made into a movie, we would probably go and see it! It has all the elements for an Oscar winning film. There is the glamour and the greed, the deceit and the desire, the power and the poverty and, of course, the goodies and the baddies.

However, this is no movie, no figment of a writer's imagination. Instead, it is a true life story, not to be watched, but to be read, not to make us feel good, but to challenge us. The story is found in the Bible, handed down to us by a God who wants us to know that there is an adventure to be experienced by each of us, if we want it.

The story tells of a poor orphan girl who became a Queen. Esther, a real Cinderella, was so beautiful that she won a beauty contest. It didn't take long for her to be declared the winner, because to go along with her Hollywood looks, was a character of equal beauty that captivated the onlooker.

The prize? To marry the powerful King Ahasuerus, who ruled during the 5th century BC. With one lingering look from the King, Esther went from the poverty of a tiny village to a palace beyond her imagination. She found herself living in a world that most young girls dream of – a world of beauty, riches, extravagance, luxury, indulgence, with a king who adored her. Esther had everything good that this world offers. Yet, she longed for something else. We know that, for when God asked her to be a part in saving the lives of His people, she answered "Yes". She longed to make a difference.

The "baddie" in the story was Haman. He devised a plot to kill the Jews without the King being aware of it. The "goodie" was Mordecai, the man who appeared at the right times, at the right places, saying the right things. He was the one who let Esther know what Haman planned to do.

Esther (a Jew herself) knew that she had to tell the King what was going to happen, but not before she had spoken with another King – the King of heaven. For three days Esther talked with God as she prepared herself to talk to her husband. She asked the Jewish people to support her by praying and fasting too.

Thirty six hours later, she knocked on the King's door, invited him to a banquet and spilled the beans. The King believed her. Instead of ordering the death of the Jews as Haman had planned, the King ordered the death of Haman. Esther had made a difference!

If, in the quiet moments of your life, you too, long to make a difference, long to fulfil the purpose that God created you for (Esther 4 v 14), then I would encourage you to read this story for yourself. Read it slowly, carefully, asking God to stop your thoughts on words or actions that speak to you in your life. Listen to God through this story - be encouraged and enthused, captivated and challenged. Be brave enough to ask God, "What do you want me to do to make a difference? What adventure can you and I share together?"

But take note of one of the most important aspects of this story – Esther depended on God, and not herself to make a difference. Read how the most beautiful woman in the Persian Kingdom chose to depend upon God rather than her beauty, to soften the heart of her husband. If you want an adventure with God, you must also be willing to depend on God, for it is only when we really depend on Him, that we see God’s power work in amazing ways to accomplish His purposes.

Read this story. Then ask God to fill your heart with a passion to make a difference for Him. Who knows what adventure you and God will experience together?

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