



Withholding Nothing:
**Moving Beyond
Fear to Faith**

Esther 4:13-17

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Amity Bible Church
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Sermon Series: Total Surrender
Withholding Nothing From God



Esther 4:13

13 Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, “Do not imagine that you in the king’s palace can escape any more than all the Jews.



Esther 4:14

14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"



Esther 4:15-16a

15 Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai, **16** “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.



Esther 4:16b-17

I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.”¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.



Today is Mother's Day...

**...it is a day for paying
tribute to someone who
deserves our
appreciation**

A vertical strip on the left side of the image shows a close-up of pink carnations in a light-colored vase, with a pink ribbon visible below the flowers.

It is also a day...

**...for making up for another
year of taking that special
someone for granted...**

A vertical strip on the left side of the image shows a close-up of pink carnations in a light-colored vase, with a pink ribbon visible below the flowers.

For some of you...

...today may be especially difficult, because it is the first Mother's Day without your mother. Just know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.



When God made...

...man, it was almost like He knew immediately that He was not done. He said in His own words, “it is not good for a man to be alone”.



Then God solved man's...

...“aleness” problem by creating a woman. He brought the woman to the man, and according to the biblical text, the man said, “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh”.



But if I you allow me...

**...to use my sanctified
imagination, when Adam's first
saw the lithe and willowy figure
of Eve, that brother said, and I
quote, Boom Shaka Lacka
Lacka", unquote.**



God created Eve...

**...to be a companion for
Adam...wife, mother, and
spiritual equal.**

**And God gave the woman
attributes that distinguish her
among all the creature that He
made.**

A vertical strip on the left side of the image shows a close-up of pink carnations in a light-colored vase, with a pink ribbon visible at the bottom.

God made her ...

**...brave and smart and
clever and resourceful,
and He wrapped it all in a
package that would stop
traffic.**

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the image shows a close-up of pink carnations in a light-colored vase, with a pink ribbon visible at the bottom.

And then when you...

**...add to her other attributes
service, sacrifice self-denial,
tenderness, forgiveness and
humility, you have a woman
with what it takes to be a
mother.**



The woman at the center...

**...of our discourse today
is all of those things and
more.**



**In the life of every person...
...there is role for God and
a role for us. We *cannot* do
what God must do, and
God *will not* do what we
must do.**

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide features a close-up of pink carnations in a white vase, with a pink ribbon tied around the base. The flowers are in sharp focus, showing their delicate petals.

The book of Esther is...

**...both extraordinary and interesting.
The events of Esther occur about a
hundred years after the Jews are
taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar
into Babylon. Some of the captive
Jews returned to Jerusalem, but
many did not.**



**This story centers...
on a Jewish community that
remained in Babylon. The
main characters in the story
are two Jews, Mordecai and
Esther, King Ahasuerus and a
Persian official named Hamon.**



**One of the most interesting...
...aspects of the book, and it is quite striking in its omission, is that God's name is not mentioned anywhere, but you would have to be blind not to see God's hand everywhere.**



The Key Takeaway

We can trust God in the midst of a messy situation because even when we cannot see Him, He is always working.



Experiencing God

1) God is always at work around you.

3) God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.



Experiencing God

5) God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

6) You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

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The story begins when...

**Ahasuerus (also called Xerxes),
King of Persia, holds two
elaborate banquet feasts that last
for 187 days, all for the grandiose
purpose to display his majesty
and splendor.**

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On the last day of the feast...

...Ahasuerus, in a drunken stupor, summons his beautiful wife, Vashti to the banquet hall so he could show her off like she was little more than a trinket. To her credit, Vashti refused to come, and the king is enraged.



**The king is embarrassed and...
...has to do something to save
face so he immediately deposes
the queen and, at the behest of
those present he makes a decree
that all men were the master of
their own homes and the women
must respect their husbands.**



**The king holds a beauty...
...contest to find the most
beautiful women in Persia to be
the new queen. It is at this point
that we meet Mordecai and Esther.
She conceals her Jewish identity,
enters the contest and wins. The
king is totally smitten and elevates
her to be the new queen.**



You can call it an accident...

...but it was really the providence of God that allowed Mordecai to overhear a plot to assassinate the king. He informs Esther, Esther informs the king and Mordecai gets credit for saving the king's life.

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God name is not mentioned...

...but you know that it was more than coincidence that Mordecai was in the right place at the right time to hear of the plot to kill the king. This will be very significant later in the story.



**We next encounter a very...
...unsavory character by the name
of Hamon. Hamon was not a
Persian. He was an Agagite (see 1
Sam. 15)**

**Ahasuerus elevated Haman to the
highest position in the kingdom
and demands that everybody
kneel to him.**



Mordecai refused to kneel...

..and this enraged Haman.

When he finds out that Mordecai is a Jew, he persuades king to sign an executive order to exterminate the Jews.

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It's at this part of the story...

...that the focus turns to Mordecai and Esther because they are the Jews only hope. Mordecai and Esther make a plan that calls for her to reveal to the king that she is Jew and then plead for the king to reverse the decree.

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Esther was fearful and...

...she reminded her uncle that it was a capital crime in Persia to go into the king's presence uninvited. To do so could cost you your life.

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Mordecai understood the fear...

...that Esther was grappling with, but he also knew that to fail would be even more catastrophic. Deep inside, Mordecai was confident that God would deliver the Jews even if she did not go before the king.

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In fact, his words were.....

... “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this.”



And then Esther moves...

**...from fear to faith when she
says utters a brave and
profound statement.**



Esther's words...

... I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.”



There is obviously much more...

...more to this story, but I would like to stop and reflect upon the insights we can gain for our own lives as we examine what prompted Esther to this great act of total surrender.



Five Lessons from the life Esther...

**...that help us to see a
clear picture of the totally
surrendered life.**

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Lesson 1

**God's supersedes every
other purpose.**



God's Purpose

**Nothing happens that does
not contribute to God's
purpose**

**God can use disobedience
and wickedness to
accomplish His purpose**

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Lesson 2

**God works His purpose
through people.**

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God will work with...

...wicked people

...disobedient people

**...unsaved people, but His
preference is**

...willing people

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the image shows a close-up of pink carnations in a light-colored vase, with a pink ribbon visible at the bottom.

God works best...

**...through those who are
willing to totally surrender
everything to Him.**

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Lesson 3

**God is working even
when you cannot see
Him working**

A vertical strip on the left side of the image shows a close-up of pink carnations in a light-colored vase, with a pink ribbon tied around the base. The background is a light, textured surface.

**God's name is
not...**

**...mentioned anywhere in
the book of Esther but His
hand is everywhere.**



God's Providence

**God will use someone else if
you don't want to do it...or**

**He will discipline you until you
surrender to His will**

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Lesson 4

**God is not in a hurry, but
His timing is perfect.**

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God gave Moses...

...40 years to form a high opinion of himself, and then He waited 40 more years to show him that his opinion of himself was too high.

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And then God...

**...took another 40 years
to show Moses how he
can use a man who puts
aside his ego and totally
surrenders Himself.**

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the slide features a close-up of pink carnations in a light-colored vase, with a pink ribbon visible at the bottom.

Lesson 5

**Man may be in charge,
but God is in control.**



God has the last word

...No matter what you are going through, or have already been through, God has the last word.

(9:19)