



Risking Everything to Follow (Esther)

January 22, 2023

Following Jesus Can Be Costly

Jesus put it this way. (Matthew 16:24-25)

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

Understanding Esther's Story

Esther 1:10-12

On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas— 11 to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. 12 But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

Esther 4:12-17

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 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. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "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." 17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Ignited by [Lessons](#) from the [Past](#)

1. Understand your culture but follow God's ways, not cultural norms.
2. Don't let human limitations get in the way of divine destiny.

3. Listen to the words of wisdom God gives through others with a humble heart. (Esther 4:13-14)
4. Recognize God's sovereign hand moving and leading your life. (Esther 4:14)
5. When there is a human attack, run to the God who rules the universe. (Esther 4:16)
6. In the hard times of life, stand strong in the community of God's people. (Esther 4:16)
7. Count the cost and be willing to pay the price as you follow God's will for your life. (Esther 4:16)

Planning to follow Jesus no **matter** what the **cost**.

Ignite Your Discipleship Journey By

- Understanding culture but not being conformed to it.
- Believing that God can do above and beyond what you can dream.



- Embracing wise and godly mentors.
- Noticing the sovereign hand of God at work all around you.
- Turning to God when the spiritual battles heat up.
- Refusing to stand alone in the hard times of life.
- Counting the cost of following Jesus and realizing that it is always worth it.

Ignite
My Next Costly Step