

My name is Hadassah...well, my Jewish name is Hadassah. I am better known as Esther, Queen of Persia. Many times I have asked myself “why was a simple Jewish orphan chosen to stand against the annihilation of her people?” I can only say that I have found that the Lord truly can work through simple ordinary people to accomplish His great work.

You see, I was just an ordinary Jewish girl. I learned the stories of the scriptures—stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. I tried to be obedient and kind. I suffered greatly when I lost my parents, yet was blessed to be raised by my father’s nephew, Mordecai. It was because of him, that I became the Queen of Persia.

The Queen of Persia...I still find it hard to believe that I am a queen, perhaps as humbling as it is to be revered for saving my people. Yet, I am proof that one righteous young woman can make a difference.

I am often asked how I had the strength and courage to stand before the King. Here is what I have reflected on since that moment. I remember the message coming in from Mordecai telling me I must go before the King. I was so frightened- this was a death sentence. I hadn’t been summoned by the King for 30 days. But Mordecai’s words penetrated my heart. He told me that if I didn’t do something, then the Lord would provide someone who would. Then he said these powerful words that I have never forgotten, “Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for a time such as this?” Never before had I had to ponder deep within my heart if I had truly come to this earth, this kingdom, for a particular purpose or mission. I was faced with two choices—go before the King and face death or turn my back and watch the annihilation of my people. There was also the possibility that the King might hold out his scepter to me and allow me to speak, but it was so unheard of.

As I weighed my choices, I pondered the sacrifices of Abraham and his son Isaac. I thought of Rebekkah willingly becoming Isaac’s wife. I thought of Joseph living all those years in Egypt and the struggles he went through. I pondered Moses and how inadequate he felt to face Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Was my situation much different? I imagined myself standing next to

Jehovah and seeing the outcome of each situation—standing by watching my people destroyed, or standing before the King, humbly requesting the change of law to save my people. It was at that point that I realized what I needed to do. “I will go in unto the king, which is not according to the law, and if I perish, I perish.”

Thankfully, I had been raised to know that the Lord, the Great Jehovah was on my side. I also knew that I had many around me to help and support me as well. Thus I asked Mordecai to have the people fast and pray with me and my maidens for 3 days so that I would have His spirit with me and be able to do this great work. I prayed for strength and courage. And as you know prayers were heard and answered and the Lord preserved my people.

Now, you beautiful young women who have come to visit with me tonight, I hope that you understand that my message is really your message. You may feel like an ordinary girl. Maybe you have difficult struggles such as I had. I’m sure you study your scriptures and say your prayers and do all you can to be obedient and kind. Perhaps you do not understand your purpose or mission yet.

Let me tell you, I have seen billions of women through all time. There have been many valiant and great ones throughout the dispensations of time. However, those of you standing here today were among the best of the best. You were the most noble and strong and courageous. We all admired you. You were the ones preserved to come at this time to usher in the coming of Christ. You may feel ordinary, but you are not. You have a great work to do. It has been said of your time, *“The youth of this generation have a greater capacity for obedience than any previous generation.”* *It is true!* You are strong and courageous! We believe in you. We pray for you. I KNOW that one righteous young woman really can change the world! My beautiful young women, you have truly come to the kingdom for a time such as this! For one day you, too, will stand before The Great King, even Jesus Christ, in whom I testify!

Because you are truly royalty, we have a gift for you to remind you of who you are. (Pass out scrolls/poem with ring.)