



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 099 - See That Noose Over There? (Esther)

Mordecai lived in a dangerous time. His people were under the power of the Persians. He could have obeyed the Persian king, bowed down to Haman and saved himself, Esther and all the Jews. Instead, he put his trust in Yahweh and refused to worship any man. Haman's wrath was so great he was able to convince the king to call for Mordecai's death and the extermination of all his people.

- When you are in a potentially explosive situation at home, work or church, how do you decide when to keep the peace and when to speak up?
- Describe a time you kept quiet in the moment and later regretted not speaking up. What happened as a result of you not taking a stand?

Mordecai wasn't the only one who put Yahweh above himself and risked his life and safety to honor and serve God alone. Esther followed his example and took her life into her own hands (or, more accurately, put it in God's hands) as she came before the king to seek his permission to be heard.

- What encouragement did Esther receive from Mordecai's words, "relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place"?
- What risks was she taking by appearing before the king?

With the words, "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Mordecai reminded Esther that things happen in our lives for a reason, and God puts us where He wants us so we may accomplish His purposes.

- Describe a situation from your life where God put someone special in your life for "such a time as this."
- Describe a situation in your life where God put you in a particular time and place for someone else.

Haman built a gallows to hang Mordecai, but Mordecai was saved when the king hanged Haman in his place. We also face great enemies—enemies who seek our death and eternal destruction. But God stepped in and took our place on Good Friday. Jesus hung on the cross in Barabbas' place and in our place, that we may walk away—free and forgiven.

- How does Jesus' death and resurrection give you the strength to stand up and honor God even when doing so might put you in great danger?