



Series: Topical

Passage: Esther 1-7

Title: Fostering Formidable Character

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper 5/12/2024

Discussion Starter – What have you learned about the importance of fostering formidable character from the biblical account in this Sunday’s sermon exemplified in the relationship we see between Mordecai and Esther?

- 1) How can you apply these lessons learned in this story to better parenting, grand-parenting and discipleship?
- 2) How did Mordecai “step up” in his leadership role?
- 3) What is the background of the story and how is it similar to the culture we are living in today?
- 4) How do you see God’s hand behind the scenes in this story?
- 5) Why do you think Mordecai released Esther in the search for a queen with seemingly no resistance?
- 6) **Read Duet 6:5-9:** What would you say would be a good modern paraphrase of this passage?
- 7) What kind of vision did Mordecai have in raising Esther?
- 8) What are some of the things that get in the way of bringing up children with long-term vision?
 - a) Why is it important that we do not fall into boredom or discontentment in the everyday mundane tasks we are called to do while fostering formidable character in others? What is important for us to do?
- 9) **Read Esther 2:11:** What do you think was going on in Mordecai’s thoughts and prayer life?
 - b) How can you relate to this scene in your walk as a parent or someone you are mentoring?
- 10) At the point of crisis, what do you think is it the thing that holds our children closest to God?
- 11) What is revealed as we look at the faithfulness of Mordecai during this one-year timeframe of Esther’s preparation?
 - c) Describe times in your life where you have been called to wait and pray. What is God calling you now to continue to be faithful in?
- 12) What are some of the short sided parenting things that we can do that keep children in permanent “childhood”?
- 13) What 3 points summarize Mordecai’s example of fostering formidable character in Esther?
- 14) How is Mordecai a great example of how to be faithful despite circumstances?
 - d) How has standing in your faith caused you opposition in the culture we are living in today?
- 15) What is the goal and the ultimate blessing of raising our children with formidable character?
- 16) God is not mentioned specifically in this story; however, we see His work through faithful obedience in Mordecai and Esther. How is this a model for God working in your life?