

# Living In The World

## Esther 2:1-23

### 1. Being In The World But Not Of The World vs. 1-8

Although the Persian Empire allowed religious freedom unless it conflicted with the King, the Jewish faith was often opposed by others. The writer emphasizes the challenge Esther and Mordecai had living out their faith while living in a world that desires them to conform to their ways. Example: Given Persian names that emphasized their gods.

Hebrew Name: Hadassah      Persian Name: Esther      Name Meaning: Ishtar the Babylonian goddess of love and war.

Persian Name: Mordecai      Name Meaning: Worshipper of Marduk the god of the Babylonians.

Although we live in a world that either oppose our faith no matter what, or only opposes it when it does not agree with the way they live their life, God calls us no matter what to live in the world in such away that would bring Him glory. (John 17:14-19)

Question:

- As we live life in this world, what are the nonnegotiables of the Christian life? What are the cultural options that do not negatively affect our life with Christ?  
  
\* Discernment is important, as the issue of relating one's faith to one's culture is continual. As a result, we need to think deeply and seriously about the possible implications.
- At what point does the assimilation of culture compromise our faith in Christ and witness?

### 2. Out of Our Hands, But in God's vs. 1-23

Although life for Esther was outside of her control (becoming an orphan at a young age, forced against her will to become the king's possession and submit to him ... etc.), God is above all things who is involved in our world and is there with His people even in times of wickedness.

Although we will experience things outside of our control, we can live with confidence that our God is above all things who is involved in our world and is there with His people even in times of wickedness.

## Questions

- By the end of the chapter, Esther is queen and Mordecai has saved the king's life. By all outward appearances, they are safe and secure. How often do you find yourself trusting in your circumstances instead of in God?
- Does God ever use flawed and compromised people to serve His greater purposes? Can you name some examples?
- Take a moment to reflect on the circumstances you are currently facing. Has God placed you in these situations for a specific purpose? Are you choosing to be gracious and to seeking to grow in wisdom and humility in the midst of them?