## Mordecai Who Adopted Esther

"5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; 6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah. whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter. 8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women. 9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women. 10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred; for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it. 11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her. 12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) 13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. 14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name. 15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. 16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. 17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king. 19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate. 20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him. 21 In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus. 22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. 23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king." (Esther 2:5-23 KJV)

Famous is the story of Esther and what she had done to the people of God when she appealed to King Ahasuerus. Esther, Hadassah, was an orphan girl and was raised by her cousin Mordecai as his daughter because her mother and father were both dead. Mordecai raised Esther in the following Godly manners:

A. <u>Fatherly manner</u>: "7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter." (Esther 2:7 KJV) He took care of her as his own daughter. Orphans should be adopted when their two parents are dead or unknown and they should not be kept in orphan's houses but ultimately to be incorporated into families. They need to enjoy the warmth of the family and the love and the care of the parents. Mordecai in taking care of her was doing the will of God, to care and to love her, till she reaches adult life to be a fruitful member in the Kingdom of God.

B. <u>Disciplinary manner</u>: "Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it." (Esther 2:10 KJV) The statement that says, "Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it", teaches us that Mordecai was disciplining her. \* Therefore we need to discipline our children by forbidding them from doing things wrong or inappropriate to the purpose of God in their lives. \* You must be discerning the purpose of God in the life of your children or in the life of that particular child that you are taking care of. Mordecai as a righteous and Godly man understood that this child, Hadassah, that he was taking care of, one day would be raised to perform God's purpose. Disciplining your children is a manifestation of the fear of God in your life, and in doing so, the Lord will impart to you further wisdom and His will in your life and the life of your children.

C. <u>Caring manner</u>: "11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her." (Esther 2:11 KJV) At this time Esther was in the king's palace and Mordecai was checking her every day to find out what was going on in her life. In the same way, we need to follow up closely with our children and find out the good plan that God has for them. Even, when they are old, being a spiritual father or mother to them you need to find out where they are in God's plan and what further instruction you need to give and impart to them.

D. <u>Chaste manner</u>: "15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her." (Esther 2:15 KJV) The term that speak about Esther, "she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. Sight chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed", it teaches us that we need to raise our children and teach them not to be demanding or keep asking us or others every now and then for new things. They will learn not to be greedy, covetous, love to possess material thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's." (Deuteronomy 5:21 KJV) These important characters and attitudes will determine in a critical way the outcome of their future lives.

E. <u>Favour gaining manner</u>: "15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her." (Esther 2:15 KJV) \* We need to teach our children to be thankful, grateful, and satisfied with what they are receiving. Such a kind of attitude that we are inculcating in the life of our children will bring God's favor in their lives, now and in the future to come. \* They will win the favor of God more than others and will be lifted to higher post and receive privileges better than others, "17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti." (Esther 2:17 KJV)

F. <u>Wisdom manner</u>: "20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him." (Esther 2:20 KJV) The statement that says "Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her", makes you understand that our children must be taught that they should keep certain secrets, for the glory of God, and must be taught not to cross certain borders. We should teach our children how to keep certain information from the public, till the right time for it.

Later on, when the time had come for the secret to be revealed Esther informed the king about her nationality, her people, and her background, "I In that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. 2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. 3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. 4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, 5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eves, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred? 7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. 8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse." (Esther 8:1-8 KJV)

G. <u>Continuous obedience manner</u>: "20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him." (Esther 2:20 KJV) The statement about Esther, "for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up", teaches us that we need to continually give our children various instructions for life and Godliness and we need to keep in the life of our children the standard of continuous obedience toward God and toward us being their spiritual leaders now and in the future. H. <u>Credit gaining manner</u>: "21 In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus. 22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name." (Esther 2:21-22 KJV) Mordecai, when knew about the plot against the king, informed Esther who told the king about it and made it a point that this information came from Mordecai who was a faithful person to the king. The king's life was saved because of the Mordecai report. The statement, "Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name", teaches us that as we do our best toward God by raising our children in a Godly manner, then someday we will be rewarded and receive the credit that we deserve.

Mordecai worked with God by doing his part and indeed he reaped the fruit of his many years of Godly love and care in nurturing, disciplining, and raising Esther in a Godly way. The Lord brought Esther to the position that He had ordained for her to be, the wife of King Ahasuerus. God brought Esther to the position of leadership to deliver and rescue the people of God from the plan of the devil on the hand of the evil Haman. When the time had come for God to use her, she was commissioned by the one whom God used to care for her, disciplined her, and discipled her.

Mordecai instructed her of what she needed to do, "1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; 2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. 5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was. 6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. 7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. 8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. 9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. 10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; 11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. 12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. 13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? 15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, 16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I

also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him." (Esther 4:1-17 KJV)

Indeed Mordecai commissioned Esther and challenged her with God's call. But when he found her delinquent in responding, he rebuked her to her face when he sent this message to her, "13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14 KJV) Esther with such a rebuke she was reminded that God who used Mordecai to feed her and who took care of her is the same God who was using Mordecai to rebuke her and pronounce God's curses on her if she will not repent and do what was right. Indeed Esther heeded the voice of God, "15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, 16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him." (Esther 4:15-17 KJV)

*My dear and beloved:* \* Your children are God's children, and He gave them to you to raise them in the prescribed way that they would finally serve Him and take the lead to do the will of God and the work of God and to be His instrument to deliver mankind from the peril of devil. \* To this, you are called as parents and God wants you to desire to work hand in hand with Him and do properly your part. \* When you discipline your children when they are young they will listen to God's Word when they are old and even they are with families, you can still rebuke them, correct them, and instruct them with God's plan and will and they can be used by the Lord to do the great work of God for the deliverance of His people from sin and death. Let us pray ....

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your loving kindness to me and thank you for your Word that you sent to us to teach us your ways and how to care for our children and to raise them in the manner that you wants them to be to serve your purpose in their lives.

Come now to God and repent and renounce your sins. Repent of your non willingness to discipline your children and disciple them and raise them and train them as disciples of Jesus. Repent and renounce your worldliness and doing your own will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Repent of your non willingness to serve Christ and suffer for Him. Repent and renounce your lack of family worship, praying and reading the Bible with them. Repent of being yoked with non believers and spending much time with your friends, and on the Media and News. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins

and your plan in my life. Lord I commit myself to continue to serve you until you come and take me with you to Heaven.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and committed their lives to do your will by teaching their children, disciplining them, training them and raise them in the fear of yours. Lord provide for them their needs so they will continue to live their lives for you. Lord use their lives as testimonies to others to continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach your Word and help your people, the families and parents under our care to train them to raise their children in the fear of you so they will do their purpose in their lives. Lord we pray for more Godly marriages to happen and more Godly families to be formed and more children to be dedicated to you and raised up as your disciples. Lord we commit ourselves to care for orphans whenever we come across in our lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to bring the fruits you desire. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Mordecai Who Adopted Esther. Esther 2:5-23. Deuteronomy 5:21. Esther 8:1-8. Esther 4:1-17.

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Lord I commit myself to abide with the instructions and the teaching that I learned in this message to discipline my children and to disciple them and train them to serve God. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to do your works and your will. Lord I am willing to care for orphans and to adopt those who are without parents. Lord I commit myself to do your will

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