

Raising Up Children

Part 4

3- Merdocai who adopted Esther: *“5 Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, 6 who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. 7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. 8 When the king’s order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king’s palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. 9 She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king’s palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem. 10 Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. 11 Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her. 12 Before a young woman’s turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics. 13 And this is how she would go to the king: Anything she wanted was given her to take with her from the harem to the king’s palace. 14 In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem to the care of Shaashgaz, the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name. 15 When the turn came for Esther (the young woman Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. 16 She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. 17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18 And the king gave a great banquet, Esther’s banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality. 19 When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate. 20 But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai’s instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up. 21 During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. 22 But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. 23 And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.” (Esther 2:5-23)*

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

1- *Fatherly manner: “7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.”* He took care of her as his own daughter. Orphan should be adopted only if their two parents are dead or unknown and they should not be kept in orphan houses but ultimately to be incorporated in families. Mordecai took care of her doing the will of God to care and to love her till she reach adult life and be fruitful member in the kingdom of God.

2- *Disciplinary manner: “10 Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.”* The statement, *“Mordecai had forbidden her to do so,”* teaches you to discipline your children by forbidding them not to do 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. Mordecai as righteous and godly man would understand that this child, Hadassah, that he is taken care, 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 in the life of your children.

3- *Caring manner: “11 Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.”* You need to find out how the plan of God is going on in the life of your children. You need to follow them up. Even they are old or having family, being a spiritual father or mother to them you need to find out where they are in God’s plan and what instruction you need to give and impart to them at a time.

4- *Chaste manner: “15 When the turn came for Esther (the young woman Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.”* The term that speak about Esther, *she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested,* It teaches you that you need to raise up your children and teach them not to demand or keep asking you or others every now and then with new things.

5- *Favour gaining manner: “15 When the turn came for Esther (the young woman Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.”* You need to teach your children to be thankful, grateful and satisfied with what they are receiving. Such kind of attitude when you are inculcating in the life of your 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 up to higher post and received privileges better than others, “17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.”

6- Wisdom manner: “20 But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai’s instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.” The statement that “Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality,” makes you understand that your children must be taught the things that they should keep secret and must be taught not to cross certain borders. You should teach your children how to keep certain information from the public.

7- Continuous obedience manner: “20 But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai’s instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.” The statement about Esther “for she continued to follow Mordecai’s instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.” Teaches you that you need to continually give your children various instructions for life and godliness and you need to keep in the life of your children the standard of continuous obedience toward God and toward you being their spiritual leader now and in the future.

8- Credit gaining manner: “21 During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. 22 But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.” The statements, “giving credit to Mordecai,” teaches you that as you do your best toward God by raising your children in godly manner, then someday you will be rewarded and receive the credit that you 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 godly way. The Lord brought Esther to the position that he had ordained for her to be, the wife of King Xerxes. God brought Esther to the position of leadership to deliver and rescue the people of God from the plan of devil on the hand of the evil Haman. When time had come for God to use her, she was commissioned by the one whom God used to care for her and disciplined and disciple her. Indeed Mordecai commissioned her and challenged her with God’s call when he found her delinquent in responding. He rebuked her to her face when he sent her this message, “13 he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13-14) Esther with such a rebuke she was reminded that God who used Mordecai to feed her and take care of her is the same God who is using Mordecai to rebuke her now and pronounce God’s curses on her if she will not repent. Indeed Esther

heeded the voice of God, “15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” 17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.” (Esther 4:15-17) When you discipline your children when they are young they will listen to you when they are old and even they are with families, and 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 deliverance of His people from sin and death.

My Dear and Beloved: Your children are God’s children, and He gave them to you in order to raise them up in a 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 be His instrument to deliver mankind from the peril of sin and 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 as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that clearly declare to me your will and your good plan for me and my family. I repent from the following sins _____ . Lord I accept your calling and commission to me to lead my family and to raise up godly children, who will be servants of yours to lead others in righteousness. Lord equip me more and provide for me to continue to do your work and your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

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Vol. 16

Issue 30

“1 That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. 2 The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman’s estate.” (Esther 8:1-2) “3 Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.” (Esther 10:3)

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