

God, Unseen but Present

The Book of Esther

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info

Part 4: “How to Face a Crisis”

Question: What are you prepared to do when you face your next crisis?

The crisis faced by the Jews in Esther Chapter 5: The entire Jewish population faced total destruction.



Esther courageously approaches King Xerxes without being summoned—risking her life. The king extends his golden scepter, sparing her. Rather than immediately revealing her request, Esther wisely invites the king and Haman to two banquets. Meanwhile, Haman leaves the first banquet full of pride but becomes enraged when Mordecai refuses to honor him. Fueled by pride and counsel from others, Haman prepares to execute Mordecai—setting the stage for God’s dramatic reversal.

READ ESTHER CHAPTER 5

Section	Description	Verses	Key Details
I	Esther Approaches the King	5:1–2	Esther risks her life by entering the king’s court uninvited. The king extends the golden scepter, granting her favor and sparing her life.
II	Esther’s First Banquet Invitation	5:3–5	The king offers up to half his kingdom. Esther wisely invites the king and Haman to a banquet instead of revealing her request immediately.
III	The First Banquet	5:6–8	At the banquet, the king again asks Esther’s request. She delays once more and invites them to a second

			banquet, showing patience and strategic timing.
IV	Haman's Pride and Anger	5:9-10	Haman leaves joyful and honored but becomes furious when Mordecai refuses to honor him. His pride is easily wounded.
V	Haman's Boasting	5:11-13	Haman boasts to his family about his wealth, position, and favor with the king and queen, yet admits it means nothing as long as Mordecai refuses to bow.
VI	The Plot Against Mordecai	5:14	Haman's wife and friends suggest a way to execute Mordecai. Haman eagerly agrees, setting in motion his own downfall.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Fill in the table below by describing the things that indicate you are trusting in God when experiencing a crisis:

Things that indicate I am trusting in myself	Things that indicate I am trusting in God
I feel I must fix everything immediately	
My thoughts are dominated by fear and worst-case scenarios	
I rely mainly on my own understanding and experience	
I feel anxious, pressured, and overwhelmed	

I make quick decisions without seeking God	
I try to control every outcome	
I avoid asking for help or admitting weakness	
I measure success by solving the problem	
I replay “what if” fears in my mind	
I become frustrated or angry when things don’t go my way	

2. What does Esther’s approach to the crisis in Chapter 5 teach you about when to wait on God in faith and when to act?

3. Why is self-sufficiency so dangerous in times of crisis?

4. In what specific ways can knowing Jesus is your mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) change the way you can face your next crisis?

HOW TO FACE YOUR NEXT CRISIS

T_____ Even when God seems silent, He is working (Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 8:28).

L_____ Jesus is already interceding for you. You are never facing a crisis alone (1 Timothy 2:5).

T_____ when the time is right. Do what is right even when it's risky (Joshua 1:9).

SUMMARY

When crisis comes, we are often tempted to panic, withdraw, or act impulsively. Esther shows us a better way: seek God, act with courage, use wisdom, and trust His unseen hand. Ultimately, our confidence is not in our strategy—but in Jesus Christ, our perfect Mediator, who stands before God on our behalf.

REFLECTION

What is one current crisis (big or small) where you need Esther-like courage this week?