

**LESSON 93**

**Egermeier's Story:**

Page 333 – Queen Esther Is Troubled

Page 335 – Esther Goes to the King

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 45:23b “That to me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.” NASB

**Scripture:** Esther 4:4-5:17

**Teaching Resource:**

Old Testament Overview Section 8 Esther

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lessons 408-410

**Object Lesson:**

Once I was subpoenaed to be a witness at a trial in a court of law. I had to go to the court when I was called. I didn't do anything wrong, but the defense lawyer thought I could help his client who was a business associate of mine. I didn't really want to do this, but I really didn't have a choice. I had to help my business associate; and once you get a subpoena, the law says you have to show up when you are called. When the day came for the trial, I had to be ready to go to the courtroom as soon as I received a phone call. I had to be ready to go. In our lesson today, we are going to look at some men who were ready to go when God called them. Some of them didn't really want to do what God was calling them to do, but they did it. And God helped them. (Alternatively, you bring in an envelope with an invitation in it. Have the invitation be to an event that you cannot miss, for example, a 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, a graduation from college by a close relative, etc. Treat this in a similar manner to the subpoena example.)

**Doctrinal Emphasis:** Serving the Lord

**Key Theme:** *You may be God's instrument.*

Let's take a look at some men who were servants of God. The prophet Isaiah lived over 250 years before Queen Esther. Isaiah describes a vision he was given of a scene in Heaven. Look at Isaiah chapter 6. Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah said, “Here am I. Send me!” Apparently Isaiah saw the need to deliver the message that God had for His people and was willing to be the one to deliver it. A man

named Amos lived about the same time as Isaiah. In Amos 7:10-17, he explains that he is a herdsman and a grower of figs. But the Lord took him away from his flocks and told him to prophesy to his people, and Amos did what the Lord told him to do.

Not all the prophets were as willing to just go and prophesy to the people. Moses in Exodus 3:11, 4:10-17 didn't want to go deliver the Hebrew people from bondage in Egypt. If you look at the call of Jeremiah, he was reluctant because he was young (see Jeremiah 1:4-10). Ezekiel was a prophet about the same time as Jeremiah. If you read about the call of Ezekiel in chapters 2 and the first few verses of chapter 3, you will see that he wasn't even given a chance to protest. He was just sort of commissioned into service.

The Lord used prophets to proclaim His Word to the people of Israel. But since the last prophet, Malachi, about 2400 years ago, God hasn't used prophets. Starting with the disciples of Jesus, God first used apostles to proclaim His Truth; and now He uses men with spiritual gifts.

Paul's service as an apostle reminds us of Ezekiel because he wasn't given a choice, either. You can read about Paul's commission in Acts 9:1-19. Paul comments on his commission in Galatians 1:13-17.

Timothy was Paul's protégé. Look at I Timothy 4:14-16. Paul is telling Timothy to not neglect his spiritual gift, which was teaching the new believers in the early church. And in II Timothy 1:6, he is again reminded of the gift. In verse 9, Paul mentions a "holy calling."

This is the same kind of thing that was put before Esther when Mordecai said to her, "And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14)" These words affected Esther, and she took action. We as Christians are a "royal priesthood" (I Peter 2:9). We are given the gift of salvation when we believe in Jesus as our Savior. Who knows whether we have been made royalty for the times we live in? We do. We know what God wants us to do. Study His Word. Obey His Word. Be ready when the call comes, when the opportunity arises to share the Good News about our salvation.

Some of us may feel a specific call to perform specific tasks with the talents and gifts God has given us. Others of us may realize only the general call to study and obey. But we are all called, and we are all given gifts from our Heavenly Father (I Corinthians 7:7 and I Peter 4:10). Just be ready to take action like Esther did. And don't be afraid to ask others to pray for you as you take action, just like Esther.