

March 26, 2018

To my viewers

This weekend I took the time to study the history of two people's lives. I found myself in their story. I learned a lot from the life of Caleb and Esther.

Esther

We treasure security, even though we know that security in this life carries no guarantees. Possessions can be destroyed, beauty fades, relationships can be broken, death is inevitable. Real security, then, must be found beyond this life. Only when our security rests on God and his unchanging nature can we face the challenges that life is sure to bring our way. Esther's beauty and character won Xerxes' heart and he made her his queen. Even in her favored position, however, she would risk her life by attempting to see the King when he had not requested her presence. There was no guarantee that the King would even see her.

Although she was queen, she was still not secure. But cautiously and courageously, Esther decided to risk her life by approaching the King on behalf of her people. She made her plans carefully. The Jews were asked to fast and pray with her before she went to the King. Then on the chosen day she went before him and he did ask her to come forward and speak. But instead of issuing her request directly, she invited him and Haman to a banquet. He was astute enough to realize she had something on her mind, yet she conveyed the importance of the matter by insisting on a second banquet. In the meantime God was working behind the scenes. He caused Xerxes to read the historical records of the kingdom late one night and the king discovered that Mordecai had once saved his life. Xerxes lost no time honoring Mordecai for that act.

Continue

During the second banquet, Esther told the King of Haman's plot against the Jews and Haman was doomed. There is grim justice in Haman's death on the gallows he had built for Mordecai ~~it~~ and it seems fitting that the day on which the Jews were to be slaughtered because the day their enemies died. Esther's risk confirmed that God was the source of her security. How much of your security lies in your possessions, position or reputation? God has not placed you in your present position for your own benefit. He put you there to serve him. As in Esther's case this may not involve risking your security. Are you willing to let God be your ultimate security?

Strengths and accomplishments

Her beauty and character won the heart of Persia's King
She combined courage with careful planning
She was open to advice and willing to act
She was more concerned for others than for her own security

Lessons from her life

Serving God often often demands that we risk our own security
God has a purpose for the situations in which he places us
Courage while often vital, does not replace careful planning