



Esther:

Don't Mistake God's Silence for Absence

Class Mantra

There is nothing too hard for God!

I am a daughter of the King.

God sees me!

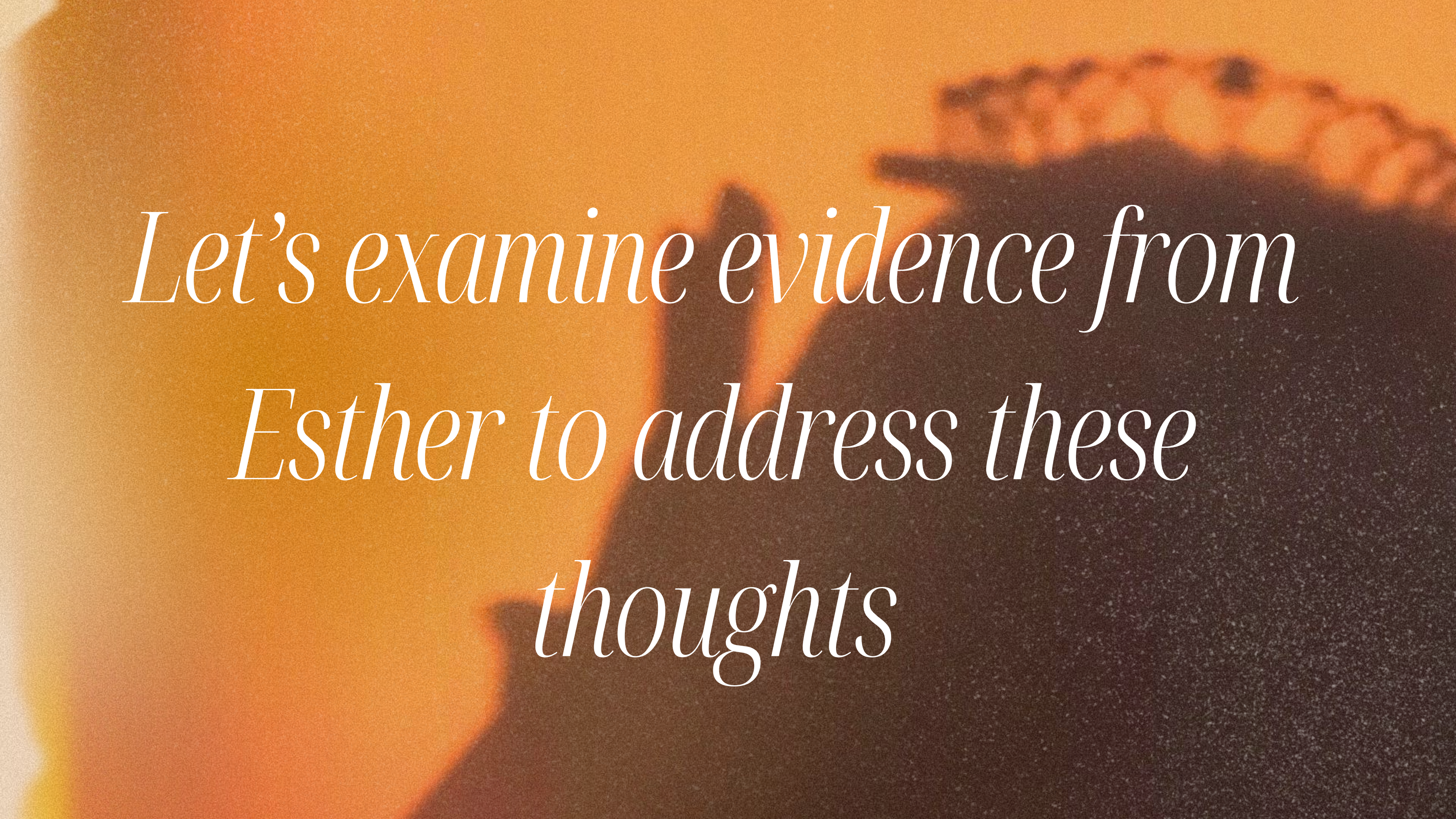
He has great plans for me!

I will strive to live as a Christian should.

I will inspire and encourage my sisters to
do the same.

Thoughts & Questions

- Will God make a way?
- Should I even be here? (Whereever “here” is for you)
- Things aren’t looking good, where are you God?
- I’m too scared to take that risk, I don’t know if I can do it?
- Did you forget about me? Do you see my efforts?
- God, when are you going to step in and punish those who are hurting me?
- God I hope you don’t get tired of me asking the same thing?
- Maybe I shouldn’t ask God that?
- Can you use me?



*Let's examine evidence from
Esther to address these
thoughts*

Chapter One

Will God Make a Way?

- We meet King Ahaserus aka King Xerxes; ruler 127 provinces
- 180 day party with plans for a 7 day feast; drinking edict
- In preparation to invade Greece
- Requests Queen Vashti to display her beauty - she refuses
- Edict written that Vashti is never to come before the King. She is not killed but dethroned and removed.
- Decree written that all women honor their husbands

Esther 1:19

God orchestrates circumstances on our behalf
that we don't even understand or that we may not even be aware of.

God will make room for you!

Chapter Two

Should I even be here (wherever “here” is for you)

- 4 years later -King remembers Vashti; invasion of Greece had taken place
- Edict can't be changed
- Idea raised to search for replacement for queen- 12 months of beauty treatments in prep for who will be chosen
- Intro to Mordecai and his cousin Esther (Haddasah-Jewish name)
- Esther did not make known her origin or her people (obedience)
- She finds favor with the King and becomes Queen and given gifts
- Mordecai hears plot to kill King while sitting at the Kings gate and tells queen and saves the kings life. (Timing and it recorded v. 23)

Esther 2: 8-10, 15-17

You are chosen and receive favor (benefits) just because YOU
are His Daughter through obedience.

Chapter Three

Things aren't looking good God, where are you?

- 5 years after Esther becomes Queen we are intro to Haman the Agagite- royal family of Amalakites (1 Samuel 15- disobedience); promoted by the King.
- Mordecai would not bow to Haman even though a Kings command.
- Royal officials did bow and daily spoke to him about why he would not. They tell Haman to see if it would be tolerated since Mordecai told them he was a Jew. (instigating) Esther 3:3-6
- Haman became enraged because Mordecai would not bow. He could have dealt with him then and there but didn't
- Haman gets edict from the King and signed with his seal that the Jews would be destroyed throughout the entire empire; Letters sent to the provinces to destroy the Jews a year from the day of the request.
- Susa thrown into confusion

God is there even when things look bleak.

God's hand of protection will hold off the hands of
your enemy 2 Thessalonians 3:3


Chapter Four *God I'm scared to take the risk?*

- Mordecai and the Jews in mourning; Esther sends a Eunch to Mordecai to learn about what was happening.
- Mordecai explains to the Eunch the plan to destroy the Jews and sends a copy of the decree to show Esther so that she can plea to the King. Esther sends a message to Mordecai via the Eunch that going before the King would mean death if not summoned
- Mordecai responds- you can't escape this fate; if you are silent, relief and deliverance will arise from another place. Esther 4: 12-14
- Esther to Mordecai and the Jews- fast for 3 days and then she will go to the King. Esther "If I perish, I perish." Esther 4:15-16 (contrast to favor rec'd)

Chapter Five

God I'm scared to take the risk?

- 3rd day after the fast-Esther puts on her royal robe and stands in the inner court waiting to be recognized by the King. *Everything comes down to this moment* King again find favor with Esther by holding out his royal scepter and ask what her request is and tells her she can have what she wants.
- Esther doesn't immediately tell him about Haman but invites them to a banquet. At the banquet, King ask her request. She invites them to another banquet and Haman leaves happy.
- Haman's happiness subsides once he passes Mordecai who again does not bow. He is filled with rage but again restrains himself. Haman at home and family and friends boasting and tells of Mordecai not bowing to him. They then feed into his pride by directing him to build gallows to hang Mordecai. Esther 5:14

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white short-sleeved dress, stands in a dimly lit room. She is looking upwards and to the left with a thoughtful expression. In the foreground, there is a wooden desk with several books and a rotary telephone. The background is a plain wall. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NASB)

Today we can activate God's power through the Holy Spirit. If you need to fast and pray, do it!

God placed you here for a reason.
Lean into it.

Chapter Six

*Did you forget about me? I've been obedient and faithful
but I just feel like you don't see my efforts?*

- King can't sleep so he has the chronicles read to him and learns how Mordecai saves him 5 years ago.
- King brainstorms how to honor him and asks Haman how to honor this man. Esther 6:6-10
- Haman, thinking it was himself, details all of the ways to honor him and the King tells Haman to do the very thing he detailed but for Mordecai.
- Haman mourns this and tells his friends and family. The friends say that he can't win. He is then taken to the banquet.

God's timing is impeccable!

The King couldn't sleep

Chronicles read to him of the account of Mordecai- how large
was this book?

Happened at the time Haman was plotting to kill Mordecai

Your work, your obedience, and your love
for God is not in vain!

Chapter Seven

God, when are you going to step in and punish those who hurt me?

- Esther holds her banquet and reveals her request to the king to let the life of her and her people be saved.
- She explains that they have been sold to be destroyed and the King asks who did this? Esther 7:3-5
- She reveals that it is Haman. *Remember Haman never knew Esther was a Jew!
- King is angry walks out and when he walks back in Haman is on the couch begging Esther for his life which makes the King even more angry. He ask would he even now assault Esther.
- Haman's face is covered and he is impaled on the same gallows he built for Mordecai.

Even when you think they are getting away with it,
God is still in control!

God doesn't play about His children. What He
promised He will deliver. (Isaiah 55:11, Numbers
23:9, Romans 8:31)

Chapter Eight

Will God get tired of me making my request known?

- Esther reveals her relationship to Mordecai.
- Haman is treated as a traitor and as such the property of traitors reverts to the crown and given to Esther.
- Esther ask the King to revoke his letters *Note Esther has to go before the King AGAIN. Esther 8:3-6
- King lets her know it cant be revoked but you can do what needs to be done to protect yourselves. (Haman's impact beyond the grave)
- Decree is issued that the Jews can defend themselves.
- Mordecai appointed replacement for Haman

Your persistence is not a bother to God! Luke 18:1-8

Chapter Nine

Maybe I shouldn't ask for that?

- In the 12th month of Adar on the day the enemy of the Jews to be killed, the tables were turned and the Jews gained mastery over their enemies.
- Jews are assembling throughout all the provinces and all the officials of the provinces assisted the Jews because no one could stand before the Jews.
- Mordecai becomes great and the Jews strike their enemies and the sons of Haman 75K enemies killed; Feast of Purim enstated.
- King asks Esther what is her further requests and she asks for an extra day for the edict. (Esther 9:12)

God expects us to ask. It's not the ask that is the issue. The issue is the assumption that the ask is too small or too big to bother God with. We must ask in confidence knowing He has solved it.

1 John 5:14-15; Mark 11:24; Matthew 7:7-8

Chapter Ten

Is there more for me? Can God elevate through me?

- Chapter 10 is only verses but solely dedicated to the greatness of Mordecai.
- Mordecai becomes 2nd in command to King Ahaserus.
- The full account of his greatness is written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia.
- Mordecai was great among the Jews and his kinsmen because he sought the good of his people and who spoke for the welfare of his nation. Esther 10:3

God is able to do exceedingly above and beyond
all that we can ask or think? Eph. 3:20

God will cause your enemies who rise against you,
to be defeated before you.... Deut. 28:7

Closing Argument!

- God is a Way Maker
- God orchestrates
- God hears
- God protects
- God is in control
- God provides
- God gives favor
- God uses you
- God answers
- God timing is perfect
- God saves
- God remembers you
- God rewards obedience
- God elevates
- God gives
- God has purpose for you

And in His silence you can prove His nearness!