

### III. COURAGE REQUIRES ACTION

- A. God is with us, wherever we GO. Joshua had to move in order to be strong and of good courage.

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Joshua 1:9

- B. Esther’s life has led her to this point of action. Her actions caused her to find favor in the king’s sight.

*1 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king’s palace, across from the king’s house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.*

*2 So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.*

Esther 5:1-2

### IV. WHAT DOES COURAGE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

- A. God has a specific calling for your life. He has uniquely gifted you to serve Him.

*“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*

1 Peter 4:10

- B. Don’t forget the prerequisites: Faith, Obedience, & Action!

*8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

*9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

*10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

Ephesians 2:8-10

### WOMEN WHO WIN

Esther: Winning at Courage

Pastor Matt Meservy

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Women played a vital role throughout the Bible. They did important and heroic things. They were winners!

*“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.”*

I Corinthians 9:24

- B. In this series we will study nine women that were winners. We will learn what they did to win and how we can do the same thing.

The messages include:

May 9	Eve: Winning At Creation
May 16	Rahab: Winning At Faith
May 23	Hannah: Winning At Prayer
TODAY	Esther: Winning At Courage
June 6	Mary Magdelene: Winning At
June 13	Lydia: Winning At
June 20	Priscilla & Aquila: Winning At
June 27	Eunice & Lois: Winning At Parenting & Grandparenting

- C. **TEXT:** Esther 4:13-17

True courage is the result of bold obedience.

*“And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit;”*

2 Corinthians 3:4-6a

## HOW TO WIN AT COURAGE

- Setting The Scene

Esther is the only book of the Bible not to mention the name of God, yet He is at work.

- In Their Dark Days (Esther 2:1-16)
- In Their Faithful Obedience (Esther 5:1-3)
- In Their Victory (Esther 7-9)

“This message of Esther is clear: God is sovereign even when life doesn’t make sense and He seems to be far off.”

- God Keeps His Promises

Mordecai (Esther 4:14) says that God will provide deliverance one way or another. He can use Esther or someone else to accomplish His purposes.

*“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place.”*  
Esther 4:14a

*“29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.*

*30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

*31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*  
Matthew 10:29-31

### I. COURAGE WITHOUT FAITH LEADS TO CONFUSION

- A. Peter was courageous in walking on the water, but when he took his eyes off of Jesus, he floundered.

*“29 So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

*30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”*  
Matthew 14:29-30

- B. With Mordecai’s help, Esther added faith to her courage

*“Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise.”*  
Esther 4:16a

### II. COURAGE WITHOUT OBEDIENCE LEADS AWAY FROM GOD

- A. Samson was known for his courage, but a lack of obedience led to his downfall.

Because of his disobedience, Samson ruined his character, his marriage, his ministry, and his nation.

*“Then Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.”*

Judges 16:30

- B. Esther was obedient to Mordecai and to God, which led to bold courage.

*“And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”*

Esther 4:16b

*“If you love me, keep my commandments...”*

John 14:15

*“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”*  
Romans 5:19