

Compromise and Beauty **Esther 2**

Compromise

1. Mordecai and Esther Chose to Be Silent.

The people of God presented in Esther appear to have forgotten their roots. In their foreign context, it appears that they had not maintained their status as a people set apart. Instead, they appear to have assimilated to foreign culture.

- How many of us, like Esther, have concealed our faith to avoid being uncomfortable?
- How many of us have bought into the values of this world and allowed ourselves to get caught up and carried along by them instead of putting God first in our lives?"

2. God Chose to Be Active

Think About It:

This book is named Esther because—despite her compromise—God didn't give up on her. Instead, He pursued her and saved her and changed her and used her to deliver His people. That's the story you will find repeated over and over in the Bible. God takes sinners, compromisers, and failures, and He loves them and rescues them and then—bit by bit—He changes them and uses them for His glory.

That is the story of Abraham who lied to protect his wife; of Moses who once murdered an Egyptian; of David who slept with another man's wife; of Peter who denied Jesus again and again. This is the story of Paul, who persecuted the church—and if you will put your trust in Jesus, this can be your story."

Beauty

So the king sends his officers into his entire kingdom to gather all the young beautiful virgins. Some commentators believe they may have gathered close to 1,000 women to undergo a year of beauty treatments. One of the things that this passage does is show us what happens when a culture chooses to judge people based on their appearance.

When we judge people by the external things of this world: People become replaceable.

All that the king looked for in a wife was external beauty, he found it very easy to discard one wife in order to take another. And we wonder why we have so many divorces and affairs, and why so many spouses struggle so deeply with insecurity.

The King doesn't just want a young and beautiful wife—he really wants to make sure he has the most beautiful woman possible. In order to be sure about that, he decides he needs to gather all the young beautiful virgins he can find and bring them all to the palace to try them out. Is it any wonder why people are afraid to settle down and make commitments? They are always wondering if there might be someone better."

Have you bought into the lie of our culture?

Have you been judging other people by their appearance?

Have you been judging yourself based on your appearance?

Do you think that if you looked better, you would be happier? It won't work. It will never be enough.

But I want to tell you that there is another way to live. You see, even though the king accurately represents the way our culture judges people, he is not the only king, and you don't have to marry him. You don't have to give yourself over to our culture's obsession with physical appearance, because you don't have to marry King culture.

The Bible tells us about another King—Jesus—who comes to offer you His hand in marriage. But this King is different. This King doesn't send His officers to find the healthiest and most attractive people in the world in order for Him to marry; instead this King gets off His throne and goes looking for His bride Himself. When He comes, He isn't looking for the healthy or for the beautiful or for the righteous; He comes looking for the sick and the spiritually ugly and the unrighteous, because this King comes to save sinners.

He comes looking for the broken and needy whose lives lay in shambles so that He might rescue them with His love. **Romans 5: 6-8** *“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Not only is Jesus nothing like King Ahasuerus, Jesus is nothing like anyone else you have ever met in your entire life. Unlike everyone else, Jesus doesn't just love people who deserve it.

Ephesians 5: 25 tells us the kind of husband that Jesus came to be for His people. It says, *Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”* Ephesians 5:25

Our culture has lied to us about where true beauty is found, and we have believed the lie. Jesus came into a world that was consumed with physical beauty, and He was despised and rejected. Isaiah 53: 2 tells us that Jesus, *“had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.”*

Let this sink in. The Son of God was despised and rejected because people thought it was a good idea to judge each other by their appearance. The creator of the universe became a man and dwelt in human form, but the world missed Him because they were committed to judging people by their appearance. The devastating truth is that nothing has changed.

Application:

1. Every Day we Choose to follow Christ or Culture.
2. God Can Redeem our Past and Empower Our Future.

“I will repay (restore, make up) you for the years the locusts have eaten.”—Joel 2:25