



## *There She Is...Miss Persia*

Text: Esther 2:1-23

Series: Esther, #2

Pastor Lyle L. Wahl

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### **A Summary Of The Events.**

1. The beauty contest is arranged. (1-4)
2. Enter Mordecai and Esther. (5-7)
3. Esther enters and wins the beauty contest. (8-18)
4. Mordecai saves the king. (19-23)

### **An Examination Of The Events.**

1. The challenging questions and difficult answers. (8-18)
  - a. Why was Esther in the contest?
  - b. Why did she keep being Jewish a secret?
  - c. Why did she violate God's laws?
2. The lessons to remember.
  - a. Foolish, sinful and evil acts cannot thwart God's purposes and promises.
  - b. Failure is always serious, but it does not exclude forgiveness, future opportunities and meaningful service for God.
  - c. Faith and obedience please God and leave a clear testimony.

## In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

**Monday.** Read chapter 2. Try to focus on the events as they are presented— not adding or reading anything into the picture they present.

**Tuesday.** Use the outline to guide you through reviewing the challenging questions of chapter 2. As we noted on Sunday, these events and the questions can be some of the most disturbing, controversial and distracting in the book. As you work through them remember that the principal of the story is God Himself, although He is behind the scenes as He is faithful and active to fulfill His purposes and keep His promises.

**Wednesday.** Today we move to the lessons from this chapter. No matter how shocking and horrible they may be, foolish, sinful and evil acts cannot thwart God's purposes and promises. Whether these actions are from the willful acts of people without God or the sins of His people, nothing and no one can sidetrack or stop what God intends to do. Whatever shocks and discourages you in the world or your own personal world, remember those things do not change this truth.

**Thursday.** Today move to the lessons that apply directly to believers. Sin is always serious, but it never excludes forgiveness and the opportunity to be faithful in the future. This gives us hope. Being faithful each moment is so important because faith and obedience not only please God, but leave a clear testimony for others. How clear is your testimony for God today?

**Friday - Saturday.** We plan to look at conflict as pictured in chapter 3.