

**SERMON SERIES:** Old School  
**SPEAKER:** Scott Beckenhauer  
**DATE:** August 9, 2020



## Key Line

Rescue missions require risk.

## Introduction

Tell about a time when you took a risk. How did you feel before you did it? How did it turn out?

## Seek the Word

Read Esther 1:1-21.

- Why did the king ask the queen to come out during the party? (*He wanted to show off her beauty.*) What was her response? (*She refused to go.*)
- Why did the king decide to divorce his wife? (*His advisors told him that all of the wives would begin to disobey their husbands, so he had to do something to teach them a lesson.*)

The king and his advisors decided to hold a “beauty contest” for the girls of the kingdom. The king chose Esther as his new queen.

- According to 2:7, who was she? (*She was an orphan Hebrew girl being raised by her cousin, Mordechai.*)
- Did the king and his men know that she was a Jewish girl? (*No*)
- Who was Haman? (*He was an official of the king who demanded that people of the kingdom bow down to him whenever he passed by.*) How did Mordechai react to Haman’s demand that people bow to him? (*He refused to bow and honor him.*)
- According to 3: 5, how did Haman react to Mordechai’s refusal to kneel down to him? What did he do in response? (*He was enraged. He found out that Mordechai was a Jew and told the king that the Jews were working against him. He convinced the king to kill all of the Jewish people throughout his empire.*)

The people of the kingdom, including the queen, could not go into the king without an invitation from the king. If they approached him and he did not respond positively, they would be killed. Mordechai told Esther about the plan to kill the Jews, but she was reluctant to go to the king because she feared for her life. Read Esther 4:14.

- What was Mordechai’s response to her fear? What did he say? (*He said, “If you don’t take advantage of your position to help your people, God will save them from another*

*avenue, but you and your family will die. How do you know that you're not in this position for such a time as this?"*)

- What did Esther decide? *(She invited the king and Haman to a dinner. She would feed them and make them happy, and then she would tell them what she wanted them to do with her people.)*
- What was her final statement about the danger in 4:16? *(If I perish, I perish.)* What does that mean?
- In the end, how did Xerxes respond when Esther told him that she was a Jew and Haman had manipulated him to kill all of them? *(He was horrified. He decreed that the Jews should be saved, and he ordered Haman killed.)*

## **Talk About It**

- Share a time when you stood up for something right. How did you feel?
- God puts us into situations where we can advocate for his mission. What are some ways you think God can use you now? In the future?
- What steps will you take toward that mission?