

In the Presence of the King (Part 2)

(Esther 8:1-17)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

Series Title: *Never Give Up*

May 26th, 2019

Something to think about:

Last week we learned that Haman’s demise came at the hands of Queen Esther, whom he didn’t know was a Jew herself. The decree that he requested King Xerxes to make was to destroy all the Jewish people living in the empire. As the decree was sealed with the king’s signet ring, it became an official edict that must be fulfilled. However, in the presence of the king, along with Queen Esther, Haman would find the tables turned against him. King Xerxes would have Haman impaled on a pole for inciting violence against the queen.

It would seem, at this point, the problem was remedied, but there was still the point of the official edict to exterminate the Jewish people throughout the 127 provinces of Persia. It could not be revoked. This is where we pick up Esther’s story today, and this is where we find a conclusion to the story of Esther and the people of Jewish descent...

Open your Bible to: *Esther 8:1-17*

Queen Esther’s persistence to go the distance for the freedom and protection of her people is inspiring. Many of us would leave well enough alone with regard to asking too much of the king. We may feel like we shouldn’t press our luck. But not Esther. Esther respectfully and persistently presses further for the love of her people and protection from the king.

Here's the key point this morning:

Key Point: “Love never gives up even when freedom is on the line.”

Esther’s commitment and persistence for the safety of her people wouldn’t allow her to give up, and there are two specific ways we can see this in this passage today...

- **For the love of her people.**

Esther 8:5-6 (NLT), ⁵ Esther said, “If it please the king, and if I have found favor with him, and if he thinks it is right, and if I am pleasing to him, let there be a decree that reverses the orders of Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, who ordered that Jews throughout all the king’s provinces should be destroyed. ⁶ For how can I endure to see my people and my family slaughtered and destroyed?”

- **For protection from the king.**

Esther 8:11-12 (NLT), ¹¹ The king’s decree gave the Jews in every city authority to unite to defend their lives. They were allowed to kill, slaughter, and annihilate anyone of any nationality or province who might attack them or their children and wives, and to take the property of their enemies. ¹² The day chosen for this event throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes was March 7 of the next year.

Something to take home:

Esther didn’t give up the fight! Esther loved deeply and pressed in with persistence and boldness even when the odds were stacked against her. Esther had nothing to prove, and everything to lose, by stepping into the throne room of Xerxes without permission. We, on the other hand, have everything to gain, and nothing to lose, if we – who believe in Christ – approach God’s throne with boldness. Our King of kings, and Lord of lords, has a seat for us, has a place for us, not only in His palace, but by His side. We who follow Christ faithfully, are sons and daughters of God. So, what do we have to fear; what do we have to worry about in this world? If God is for us, who can be against us? We have love on our side, and it’s with love, in love, and through love that we conquer.

Key Point: “Love never gives up even when freedom is on the line.”

NOTES:

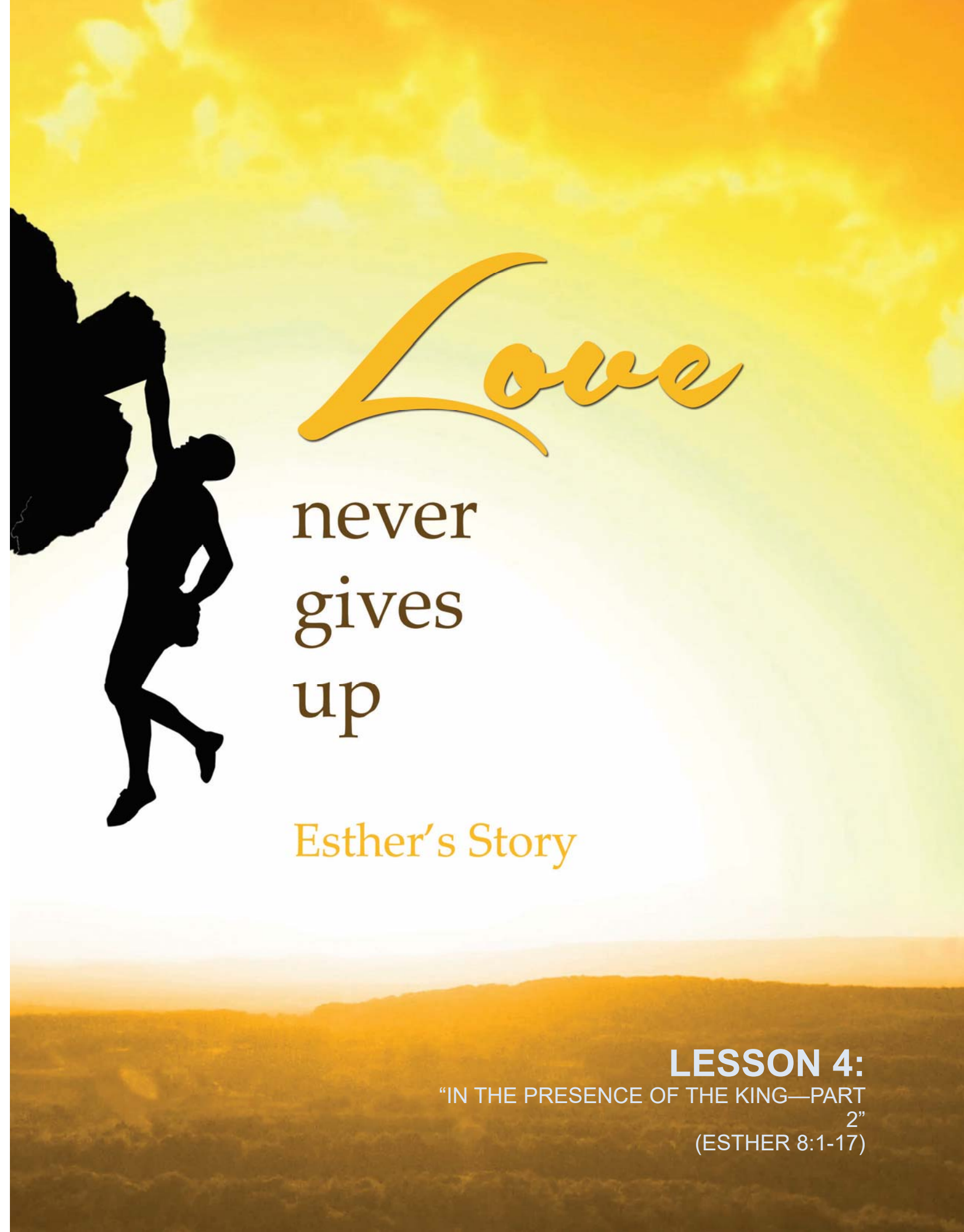


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“Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:

- Know** Christ intimately,
- Grow** in Christ continually, and,
- Go** for Christ daily;

Through:
Core Families,
Community Partnerships, and
Global Connections.”



Love

never
gives
up

Esther's Story

LESSON 4:

“IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING—PART
2”

(ESTHER 8:1-17)

In the Presence of the King (Part 2)

(Esther 8:1-17)

Series Title: *Never Give Up*

KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How would you define the word “persistence?”
- ⇒ Describe a time when you were persistent and it paid off...

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

Esther 8:1-17 (NLT)

¹ On that same day King Xerxes gave the property of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther. Then Mordecai was brought before the king, for Esther had told the king how they were related. ² The king took off his signet ring—which he had taken back from Haman—and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed Mordecai to be in charge of Haman’s property.

³ Then Esther went again before the king, falling down at his feet and begging him with tears to stop the evil plot devised by Haman the Agagite against the Jews. ⁴ Again the king held out the gold scepter to Esther. So she rose and stood before him.

⁵ Esther said, “If it please the king, and if I have found favor with him, and if he thinks it is right, and if I am pleasing to him, let there be a decree that reverses the orders of Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, who ordered that Jews throughout all the king’s provinces should be destroyed. ⁶ For how can I endure to see my people and my family slaughtered and destroyed?”

⁷ Then King Xerxes said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, “I have given Esther the property of Haman, and he has been impaled on a pole because he tried to destroy the Jews. ⁸ Now go ahead and send a message to the Jews in the king’s name, telling them whatever you want, and seal it with the king’s signet ring. But remember that whatever has already been written in the king’s name and sealed with his signet ring can never be revoked.”

⁹ So on June 25 the king’s secretaries were summoned, and a decree was written exactly as Mordecai dictated. It was sent to the Jews and to the highest officers, the governors, and the nobles of all the 127 provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia. The decree was written in the scripts and languages of all the peoples of the empire, including that of the Jews. ¹⁰ The decree was written in the name of King Xerxes and sealed with the king’s signet ring. Mordecai sent the dispatches by swift messengers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king’s service.

¹¹ The king’s decree gave the Jews in every city authority to unite to defend their lives. They were allowed to kill, slaughter, and annihilate anyone of any nationality or province who might attack them or their children and wives, and to take the property of their enemies. ¹² The day chosen for this event throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes was March 7 of the next year.

¹³ A copy of this decree was to be issued as law in every province and proclaimed to all peoples, so that the Jews would be ready to take revenge on their enemies on the appointed day. ¹⁴ So urged on by the king’s command, the messengers rode out swiftly on fast horses bred for the king’s service. The same decree was also proclaimed in the fortress of Susa.

¹⁵ Then Mordecai left the king’s presence, wearing the royal robe of blue and white, the great crown of gold, and an outer cloak of fine linen and purple. And the people of Susa celebrated the new decree. ¹⁶ The Jews were filled with joy and gladness and were honored everywhere. ¹⁷ In every province and city, wherever the king’s decree arrived, the Jews rejoiced and had a great celebration and declared a public festival and holiday. And many of the people of the land became Jews themselves, for they feared what the Jews might do to them.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Haman the Agagite (and vizier to King Xerxes) has been executed for attempted violence toward Queen Esther, but an ongoing dilemma still exists. What does today’s reading reveal about the ongoing dilemma?

2. The king’s edict to have the Jews exterminated throughout the land was still in place after Haman’s death. What does Esther do to procure the safety of the Jewish people scattered throughout the Persian Empire (vv. 3-6)?

3. What is the king’s response to Esther’s request (vv. 7-8)?

4. The original decree from King Xerxes could not be revoked. However, something could be done to protect the Jewish people from destruction. What was the solution (vv. 9-14)?

5. What happened as a result of Mordecai’s new written instructions (vv. 15-17)?

6. Esther was persistent. Not only did she go before the king without permission the first time to deal with Haman, she comes before the king again with another request. Many of us would struggle to be so bold as to ask more from the king, but Esther persists, even at great risk. Has there ever been a time when you regretted not persisting more about a certain thing/issue? Explain...

7. Is it ever not okay to persist? Explain...

8. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How are we supposed to come before the throne of God? What are the differences/similarities in the way Esther approached the throne of Xerxes, and how we approach the throne of God? What does it mean to come “boldly?” What is the difference between *boldness* and *arrogance*? What are will we received (because of what Christ has done for us) if we come before the throne of our gracious God?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **ESTHER DIDN’T GIVE UP THE FIGHT!** Esther had nothing to prove, and everything to lose, by stepping into the throne room of Xerxes without permission. We, on the other hand, have everything to gain, and nothing to lose, if we – who believe in Christ – approach God’s throne with boldness. **OUR KING OF KINGS**, and Lord of lords, has a seat for us, has a place for us, not only in His palace, but by His side. We who follow Christ faithfully, are sons and daughters of God. So, what do we have to fear; what do we have to worry about in this world? If God is for us, who can be against us? We have love on our side, and it’s with love, in love, and through love that we conquer.
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Esther 8:3-4; Hebrews 4:14-16.*