

Esther 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

Analysis

Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. Mordecai's response directly challenges Esther's presumed safety. His warning "think not...that thou shalt escape" demolishes any illusion that royal position exempts her from Haman's decree. The phrase "more than all the Jews" emphasizes Jewish identity as determinative—being queen doesn't override being Jewish. This blunt warning serves pastoral purpose: helping Esther see clearly that refusing to act won't save her. The choice isn't between safety and risk but between risky obedience potentially saving everyone versus silence that dooms all, including herself. Mordecai's pastoral firmness demonstrates that faithful leadership sometimes requires harsh truth rather than comfortable encouragement.

Historical Context

Mordecai's warning was realistic—genocidal decrees typically didn't exempt high-status individuals from targeted groups. The decree specifically ordered destruction of "all Jews, both young and old, little children and women" (3:13), making no exceptions for royalty or officials. Historical examples of ethnic persecution show that assimilated or high-status members of targeted groups rarely escape if their identity is discovered. Esther's Jewish identity, though concealed, would likely emerge during empire-wide violence against Jews. Mordecai's warning helped Esther see past any false security based on position,

recognizing that covenant identity created inescapable solidarity with her people's fate.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Mordecai's blunt warning demonstrate that pastoral care sometimes requires harsh truth rather than comfortable assurance?
2. What does this teach about how identity and solidarity create responsibilities that privilege cannot exempt?

Interlinear Text

תִּדְמֹר אֶל אָסֵת רִבְבָּשׂ יְבָמָה מְרַדְכָּא וְיַאֲמֵר
commanded Then Mordecai to answer H413 Esther H408 Think H1819

מִפְלָת בְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בֵּית בָּנָפְשֵׁךְ לְהַפְלֵת
not with thyself that thou shalt escape house in the king's H3605

כָּהוּא יְהוָה:
more than all the Jews
H3064

Additional Cross-References

John 12:25 (Parallel theme): He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Philippians 2:30 (Parallel theme): Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

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