

September 21 Answers

- 1) The first half of the story of Esther teaches us several lessons. First, it shows us that God has a **plan** for our lives. God's plan for Esther was that she change the **mind** of Ahasuerus toward the Jews. God's plan for us is that we change the minds of the **lost** toward Jesus Christ. Esther played a pivotal role in the salvation of the Jews, and as disciples of Jesus, we play an important part in God's plan to **save** the world. Second, it teaches us that the **circumstances** of life are often beyond our control. Esther never dreamed that she would be the queen of the Persian Empire. She had to **adapt** to the unexpected situation in which she found herself, and she was forced to **trust** God for guidance and protection. It's the same with us. We have a responsibility to make wise, godly **decisions**, but circumstances can change abruptly, and we always need to have our hand firmly in God's. Third, it shows us that God is perfectly capable of taking **care** of us no matter where we find ourselves (Est 2:15). When we trust God and obey, He is faithful to bless us and give us favor in the eyes of others. This in turn allows us to be a shining **light** for Him. The text says, "Esther **obeyed** Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him" (Est 2:20). Esther had grown up being obedient to her cousin, and this godly **habit** enabled her to submit to his leadership when it really mattered. This teaches us how vital it is to obey the authorities in our lives, for if we will not submit to those we can **see**, how can we submit to God? (cf. 1 John 4:20).