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Resistance is an Act of Faith

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“Submit yourselves, then, to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from
you.”

James 4:7

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“Resist”

A battle cry for justice.

Resist

- to exert oneself so as to counteract or defeat;
- to withstand the force or effect of.



“Nothing less than this faith will sustain us. We resist not because we will succeed but because it is right. Resistance is the supreme act of faith.”

Chris Hill



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Resist the devil, and he will flee
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James 4:7



Submission to God = Standing in Faith

Submit is “upotassw”

"a voluntary attitude of giving in,
cooperating, assuming responsibility,
and carrying a burden."

Submission to God

Allowing your mind, will, and actions to be governed by God and the things of God.



“The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”

Romans 8:7

Resist = "Anqisthmi"

- Stand against
- Oppose
- Withstand

As we yield to God, we are resisting the devil.

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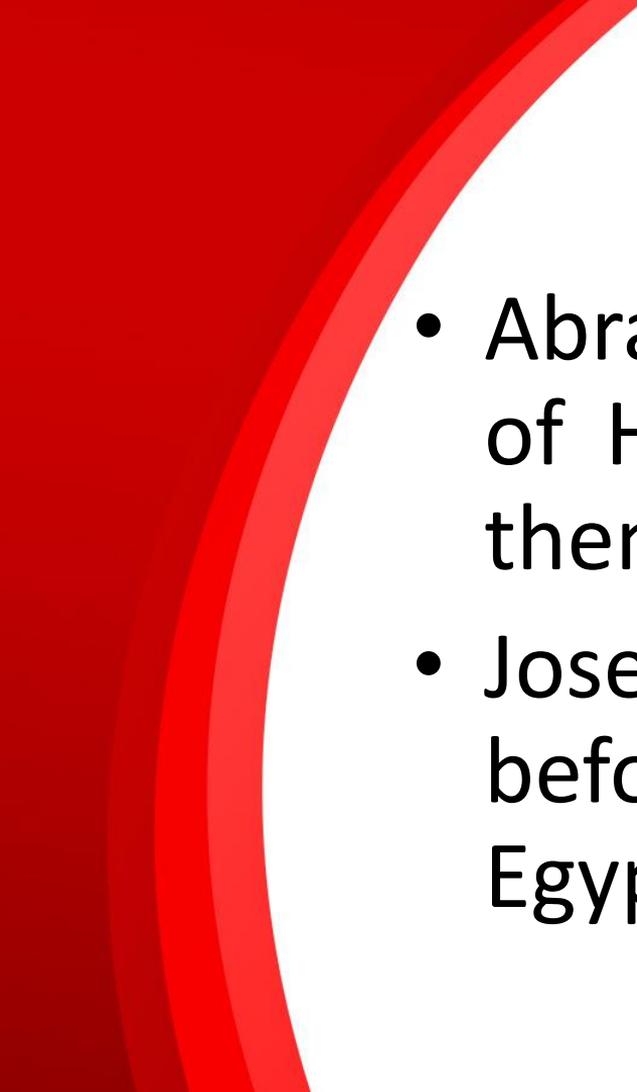
Esther 3:1-9

- Esther 1 – Vashti is deposed for failure to come to King Xerxes wearing only her royal crown to display her beauty to his guests.
- Esther 2 – they started looking for a new queen.
 - Verse 5 – we meet Mordecai, from the tribe of Benjamin. He was in Susa. He was carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
 - Verse 7 – we meet his cousin Hadassah who he raised because she was an orphan.
 - Verse 8 – we are told that she was taken into the palace to be among those under consideration for the queen.

- Esther 2 – they started looking for a new queen.
 - Verse 10 – we learn something about their relationship. Mordecai told Esther not to reveal her nationality (she was passing)
 - Verse 11 – Mordecai went to check on Esther daily at the courtyard near the harem.
 - Verse 17 – Esther is chosen as queen.
 - Verse 21 & 22 – Mordecai is now at the king's gate. He learns of a conspiracy to kill the king, and he tells Esther.

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About what issue will you
not be moved?

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- Abraham bowed down to the sons of Heth when he negotiated with them for Sarah's grave.
 - Joseph's brothers bowed down before Joseph, thinking he was an Egyptian official.

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Mordecai's commitment
to monotheism was why
he would not bow.

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Exodus 17:14-17

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Mordecai declared that he was
on God's side in the national
struggle between the Jews and
the Amalekites.

1 Samuel 15

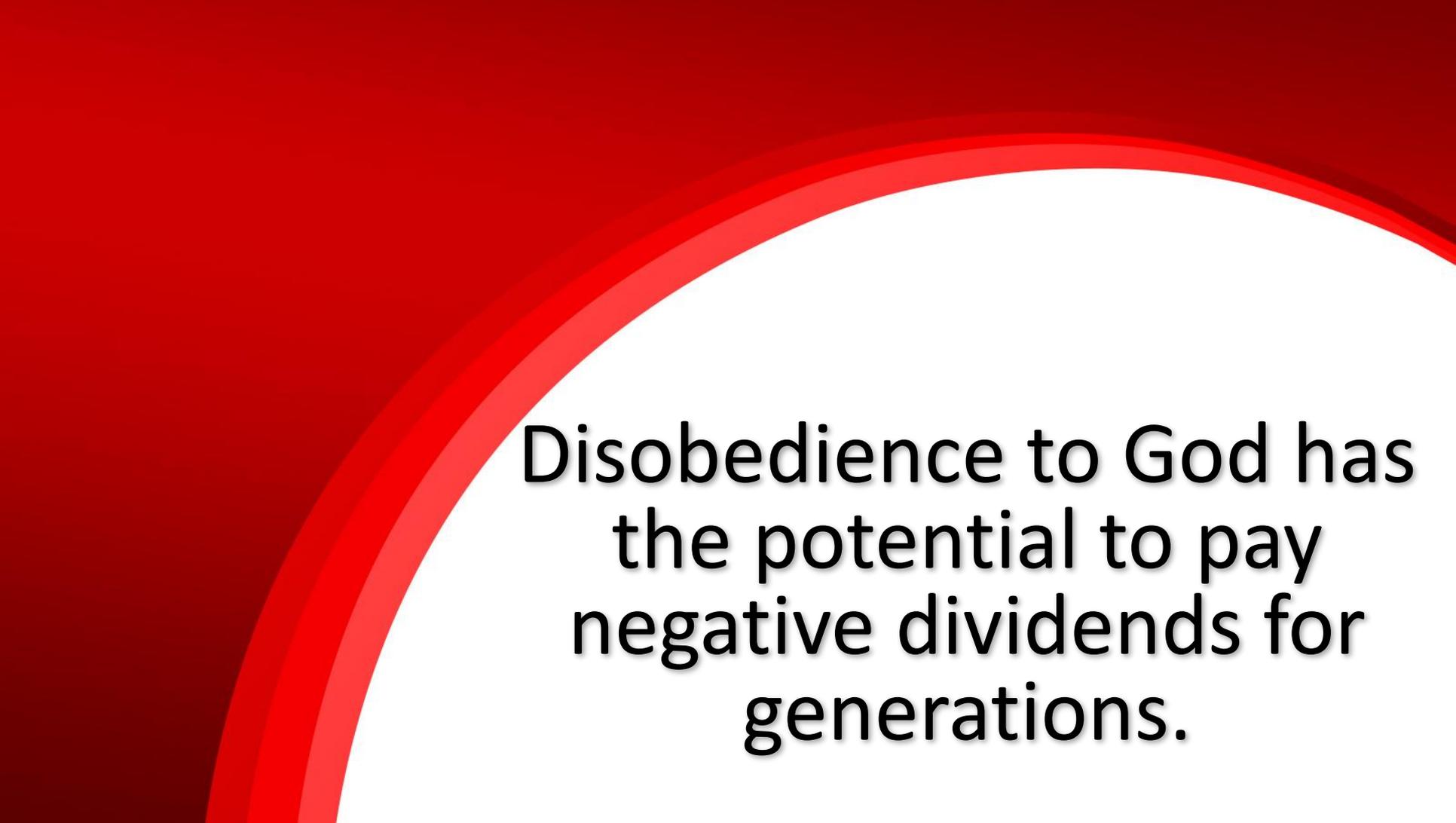
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The Agagites were
descendants of Agag,
the Amalekite that
King Saul spared.



“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’
and not do what I tell you.”

Luke 6:46

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Disobedience to God has
the potential to pay
negative dividends for
generations.

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Maybe Mordecai just
didn't like Haman.



Mordecai is not the only person in the Bible who, for conscience sake, practiced “civil disobedience.”

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- The Hebrew midwives disobeyed Pharaoh's orders and refused to kill the Jewish babies. (Ex. 1:15-22)
 - Daniel and his three friends refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's image (Dan. 3)
 - The apostles refused to stop witnessing in Jerusalem and affirmed:
"We must obey God rather than humans" (Acts 5:29)

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Mordecai didn't reveal his Jewish heritage until he was pressed.

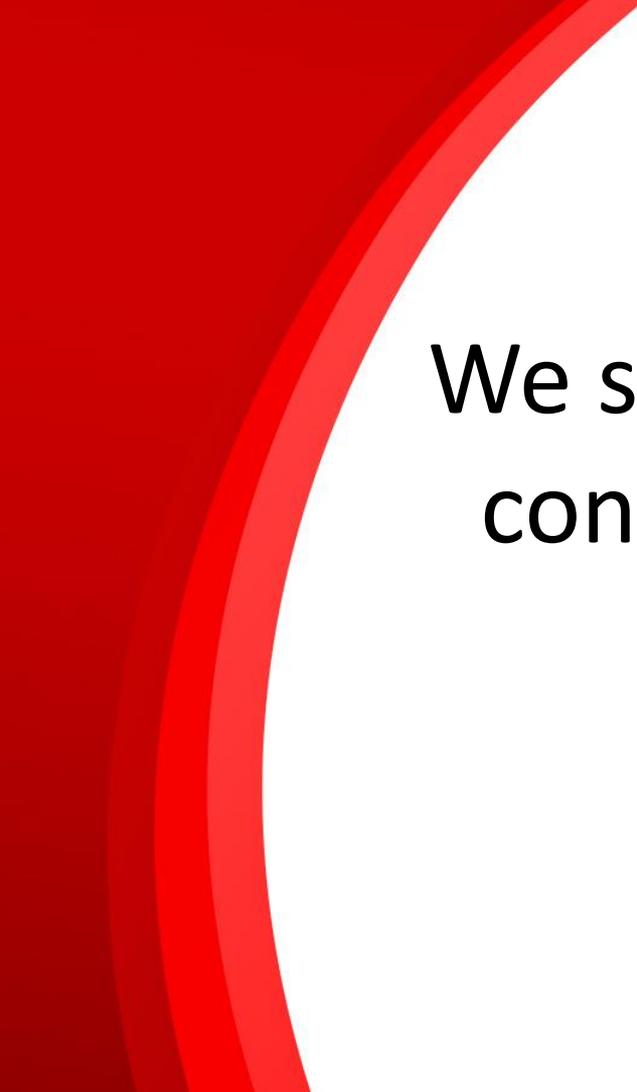
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Mordecai couldn't be a secret Jew forever! You can't be a secret disciple either!



“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 10:32-33

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We should not deny God or the
convictions of following God.

Chemah

- Burning with anger
- Filled with rage or venom
- Consumed with wrath

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Esther 3:8-11



He went and told three truths and a lie.

- Dispersed = Geographically spread through the empire.
- Separate = Unassimilated.

Separate

- The word for “separate” here refers to being set apart.
- They are “Qodesh” which is most commonly translated “holy.”

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- Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers.”
 - Deuteronomy 14:12 – “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

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Esther 4:1 – 3



Tearing of clothes and putting on sackcloth and ashes is an outward expression of faith.



What is your outward expression
of grief for all that ails our
community?

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Mordecai made his hurt, his
disagreement, his grief public.

Gadol

Deep, major, and violent



“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 3:8-9



Who are you crying out for?
Loudly? Bitterly?



We can't be neutral when human
lives are at stake.

Resist publicly!



Some things can't be rushed through,
gotten over, glossed over,
bypassed quickly.

The Fourfold Answer of Mordecai to Esther

1. He sent word of all that had happened to him.
2. He told Esther about the money that Haman had promised to pay the king.
3. He sent Esther a copy of the decree.
4. He said that Esther should go into the king, to make supplication and request before him, for her people.



“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 5:58



We must persist in our resistance!



“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

Luke 11:9-10

Continuous ongoing action.

- Ask and keep on asking.
- Knock and keep on knocking.
- Resist and keep on resisting.



"Do not think that because you are in the king's house, you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:13



Mordecai reminded Esther of 3 facts.

- Her position was not a guarantee that she would be spared.
- Silence wouldn't prevent another source of being used.
- She wasn't in that palace by accident.

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Mordecai literally spoke truth to power.



When we choose to fight, it will change
the lives of others.

Mordecai fighting back led Esther to become
the queen that she was meant to be.



“Who knows” can also be translated
“perhaps.”

“Perhaps you have attained to royalty for a
time like this [to use your position to
deliver your people].”



We have been ordained, called, born to
push those with position, power, and
influence to impact and transform this
present world into the kingdom of God!



“Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.”

Esther 4:17



When we poke the bear of injustice, we've got to be prepared to:

- Go public with our issue.
- Persist.
- Be actively involved.
- Speak truth to power.
- We can't be afraid of push back.
- We must do what needs to be done to get the help we need.



“When Mordecai left the king's presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold, and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration.”

Esther 8:15



Mordecai received favor from the same king that had ordered his death and the annihilation of his people.



“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.” Isaiah 59:19

QUESTIONS

1. About what issue will you not be moved?
2. How often do you ignore your inner voice that says “don’t do it”?
3. What has disobedience to God cost you?
4. What is your outward expression of grief for all that ails our community? How are you resisting?
5. Mordecai said to Esther, “Perhaps you have attained royalty for a time like this.” What is your “perhaps”? Where has God positioned you for such a times as this?