



Real Relationships

Esther and Cousin Morte

Pastor James Heyward

Real Relationship investment leads to life change. When someone invests in you and you invest in others lives change, purposes are discovered and we move into God's plan and place for our lives.

In the book of Esther we find the story of how Mordecai made a real-relationship investment in the life of his cousin Esther. Because of Mordecai's investment in Esther's life she became Queen and was able to use her position to save her people, the Jews, from being exterminated.

Real relationship investment changes a person's life.

Esther 2:7

- Mordecai changed Esther's life by adopting her and becoming the person who most influenced her future.

1. Share an example of someone's investment changing your life.

Real relationship investment is about listening.

Esther 2:10-11, 20

- Mordecai spoke into Esther's life and she listened.

2. Do you have someone speaking into your life?

Real relationship investment leads to serving others.

Esther 4:15-16

- Esther, operating in faith rather than in fear, was willing to serve her people's interest even if it meant her death.

3. How does fear affect our willingness to serve others?

4. How does faith affect our willingness to serve others?

The 3 assurances of real relationship investment:

Esther 4:13-14

- We are here for a purpose
- We can be a part of God's plan
- God has a place for us

5. Which of these assurances do you need today?

6. Is there someone whom you can encourage in one of these assurances?

This week, continue to ask yourself:

- Who is investing in me?

and

- In whom am I investing?

Family Connect Discussion Starter:

Share with your family the story of Esther (short version). Emphasize the relationship between Mordecai and Esther. Ask who they have in their life that they listen to for advice and guidance? Why do they listen to that person?