

INTIMACY AND INFLUENCE

PASTOR TIMOTHY GREEN

We've all heard the old saying, "It's not what you know, it's who you know." That old saying has a lot of truth in it. Not only in the world in which we live, but that truth is proven again and again throughout the Bible. One such place is in the story of Esther.

Esther teaches us many things, and the things I want to focus on today are the fact that, influence flows from intimacy and access comes from relationship.

Esther could have never accomplished what she did in saving the Jewish people from annihilation if she didn't occupy a place of high affection and privilege in the heart of the king.

World history would read very differently today had God not planted this young deliverer in the life of a pagan king. As queen of Persia, Esther had access to the ear of the king in the royal bedchambers. Intimacy and influence go together.

Your influence with people is often in direct proportion to the level of intimacy you have with them. The closer you are to someone, the more influence you have with them.

Do you want to be intimate with God? Do you really want to know Him as He really is? Are you willing to pay the price? That's the million dollar question. Churches are full of people all across America today who claim they want an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, but most of them aren't willing to make the necessary sacrifice in order to have it.

Remember, Esther spent one full year preparing for her visit with the king. She didn't just show up. She prepared herself in order to be accepted. She convinced the king that she wanted him more than she wanted his kingdom. She wanted him more than she wanted the things he could give to her.

Do you want to be intimate with the King or do you just want a casual relationship? Do you want to be His bride or are you satisfied with just knowing who He is?

God invites each of us to know Him in an intimate way but He's not looking for a girlfriend, He's looking for a bride.

God is looking for people who are willing to make a commitment to Him. People who want Him, more than they want anything else in this world.