

## GOAT'S Part 3: Overcoming Discrimination

*"Do not be **overcome** by evil, but **overcome** evil with good." Romans 12:21 NIV*

*"On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him... to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger... According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?" he asked... Then Memukan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, "Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes. For the queen's conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, 'King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.' This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen's conduct will respond to all the king's nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord." Esther 1:10-12, 15-18 NIV*

*"Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. She pleased him and won his favor... Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so." Esther 2:5-10 NIV*

✓ **Orphaned**

✓ **Captivity**

✓ **Ageism**

✓ **Sexism**

✓ **Racism**

Discrimination isn't a " \_\_\_\_\_ " problem; it's a **sin** problem.

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause **divisions** and put **obstacles** in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. **Keep away from them.**"  
Romans 16:17 NIV

"So in Christ Jesus **you are all children of God** through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29 NIV

### **1. Esther took responsibility.**

"Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and **she won his favor and approval** more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti." Esther 2:17 NIV

### **2. Esther saw opportunity.**

"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 4:13-14 NIV

### **3. Esther asked for help.**

"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and **fast for me**. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do." Esther 4:15 NIV

### **4. Esther trusted God and risked for the greater good.**

"All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king... I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And **if I perish, I perish.**" Esther 4:11, 16 NIV