

“Esther / That’s why I’m here right now”

Session 4 – Esther 4

((These are modified notes made for the sermon archive online, since the sermon audio was not recorded.))

Message:

Good Morning.

Turn to Esther 4.

Let’s catch up and then read thru Esther 4. It is good to catch up on the story because it continues and builds, just like the story of our lives continue to build and grow....

Time Frame of Esther is 460ish BC.

The Persians are ruling.

The Jewish People have had the opportunity to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild

The city & the Temple, but some have continued to stay in Persia.

King Xerxes is in Control. He banished his wife, the Queen, at one point for not Obeying Him, so a search was put on to find a new Queen.

Enter a Jewish Girl named Esther who gets selected to be the next Queen. She is an Orphan and has been raised by her cousin Mordecai.

The King’s second in command is named Haman. Basically, Mordecai angers Haman by not bowing to Him, and He gets King Xerxes to issue a decree, not only killing Mordecai, but basically killing off the entire Jewish people living in Persia & its’ Provinces.

This is where we pick up in Esther 4. Let’s read through it & come back & pack it.

Read Esther 4.

Now, you understand where this passage, “For such a time as this” comes from & How it fits into the Story of Esther...and we will see how it fits in the story of your Life, too.

Esther 4:1-3

--Imagine this scene

--Mordecai begins to mourn realizing that essentially He is going to die, as well as all the Jewish people because He would not bow down to this man named Haman.

--Think of these couriers that are essentially carrying a death sentence in their hands.

--As the edict gets read, mourning & wailing begins to fall on those who hear the words.

--Remember back to Esther 1 & the King’s Edict/Decree against Vashti being kicked out of the King’s Presence. Once an edict is issued...no take-backs...no, oops I’m sorry.

No...just Kidding. It would make a King look weak to take back a decree.

-Not saying it could not be done, but most had never done it.

--Once the King’s ring has sealed it, it is done!

-So, the People know this is a done deal. The King has issued it, the King has sealed it, and now it is being read....It is final.

- But, Remember...God is always in control & higher than any power or authority on this earth!
- So, knowing this the Jewish People begin to weep knowing that they will all be dead
 - Sometimes things seem very dire, but nothing is dire with God.
- Essentially, this month of Adar was 11 months away, so they had 11 months to wait to die. Imagine that...the thoughts they had, the feelings of knowing their time on this earth was very limited.
- it was no wonder they began to mourn.
- They would mourn by fasting & wearing sackcloth & ashes.
- This process of grieving began to demonstrate their remembrance of God & their faith in Him, for the custom of sackcloth and ashes included prayers of confession & worship. It also included wearing black...like used to be our custom for funerals.
- The sackcloth was a garment of coarse material made from goat or camel hair.
- Using these expressions of fasting, wearing sackcloth & ashes helped to show to those around them their true grief...It helped to display externally what they were experiencing inside.
- It is very important to note that by this process of mourning, they are returning to God and remembering His ways.
- DON'T LET TIMES OF DESPAIR BE THE ONLY TIME YOU TALK TO GOD.

Esther 4:4-11

- Esther had not yet heard of the royal decree against her people.
- Even though she was Queen, it was not like a normal husband/wife relationship.
 - There may be months between times that the King & Queen would see each other. Remember, he had a harem of women at his disposal.
 - And even if they did get together, this topic would probably not have come up.
- Hathach was a personal attendant of Esther & would carry all the messages the Queen Esther had between Mordecai.
- This conversation begins to AWAKEN the reason that Esther was selected Queen.
- Esther & Mordecai have this conversation.
- Esther discusses with Mordecai her situation and explains that she could not approach the King without being called by Him.
- If she went to the King without being called by Him, He could have her killed.
 - This was a serious thing to face death by approaching the King.
- I have not seen the movie made some year's back about the life of Esther, but I can imagine the build-up and music beginning to happen now in the movie as This discussion ensues.

Esther 4:12-14

- Mordecai realized Esther's position and power as Queen was a gift to be used for her people's deliverance.
- Mordecai responded to Esther with a warning reminding her that she, too, was Jewish, and if nothing was done, she would be killed, too.
- v.14 // this is where this beautiful verse comes from.**
- She is beginning to realize that her rise in the palace may be for more of a reason than her beauty...Her rise has more of a holy calling than she realized.
- Perhaps she had been chosen Queen "for such a time as this."

Esther 4:15-17

- Esther is at a turning point. She knew the risks of approaching the King.
 - She knew the risks of doing nothing....Death could happen either way.
- Esther makes her choice..
- v.16..."I will Go" and "If I perish, I perish" --- POWERFUL
- Imagine the hope that must have brought to Mordecai and the others who would begin fasting and praying to God for this situation & for Esther's Moment.
- Her PURPOSE IS AWAKENING.
 - Her "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS" Moment is being realized.
- Mordecai, Esther, and the Jewish people would begin an intense time of prayer

Remember, this whole thing got started as an evil revenge against Mordecai.

---Life of Joseph // Remember Him

- Genesis 50:19-20, "19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?
20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." NIV
- NLT – "20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. "

--What position you are in?

- I had a Conversation with an individual this week seeking employment beyond her job because of the Difficult people she works with.
- said she has put out resumes/interviews, but God has not opened the door yet.
 - told her that is because God wants her behind the door she is currently at.
 - He has a purpose for her where she is at.
 - She then begins to tell me of stories how her life has been a witness for God & those whom she has been a Godly influence to at her current position/job.
 - I told her...that is her purpose right now.
 - When God is ready for another place, He will open the door.
- Don't remember who said it, but I heard it plainly said. "Instead of looking for moving to the next pasture that is green and lush, start fertilizing your own pasture—where you are at."

--This applies to so much.

- Instead of changing jobs because of the people there, try changing things with God's help.
- Instead of changing spouses, try nurturing your current one.
- was talking with a Pastor this week about churches, jobs, some Pastors moving around a lot, etc.
 - Actually heard the average stay of Pastor was 3 years at one point....SAD!!!
- Every church has same issues & difficulties.
 - Work through them where you are at...
 - Don't move on...eventually issues arise there, too.
 - Point is...Don't give up...Don't Quit. ...Allow God to reveal to You the reason/the Purpose you are where you currently are.
- GOD is Providential & in control, and has a reason for the position you are in.

Charles Spurgeon said,...

"You have been wishing for another position where you could do something for Jesus: do not wish anything of the kind, but serve him where you are." (Spurgeon)

ANOTHER ASPECT OF PEOPLE AND POSITIONS...

- When is the last time you encouraged someone in their position.
- When is the last time you have encouraged someone in their "For such a time as this" moment.
- Encourage others in their positions.
 - ex. Boss who got "your" promotion
 - he's doing a good job, but when is the last time you told him that.
 - when is last time you told anyone that they are doing a great job.
 - when is last time you saw someone's PURPOSE & told them that.
- Encouragement is needed so much in our world today.

As we close out, Think for a moment...

- What is your purpose right now.??!!
- In what area of your life can you hear this phrase, "Who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this?"

- Think about your family, your spouse, your friends.
 - What is your purpose with them?
- Think about your children.
 - What is your purpose at this point with them?
 - to raise them up if young
 - to encourage your grown children as they raise their children
- Think about your job.
 - What is your purpose there
 - Your co-workers...why does God have me in their life?
 - The person next to you...why does God have you sitting next to them?
- Think about your home.
 - What is the purpose/reason you are next to that family?
- Think about this church.
 - What is the purpose/reason God has you at New Hope.
 - You have a purpose here.
- Think about your life as a whole.
 - How are you living it?
 - What is the reason/Purpose God breathed life into you.

Another Perspective to think about...

- You are not there not for just the benefit of yourself,---this is what our world teaches— but what can your position do to benefit others.
- Don't think that God has put you there solely for your benefit, but also for the benefit of others.

YOU HAVE A PURPOSE...ALLOW GOD TO AWAKEN IT IN YOU

Let **Esther 4:14** ring in your ear, your mind, your heart as you look at your life.
"Who knows but that You have come to your position for such a time as this."

Then let Esther 4:16 give you your confidence. "I Will Go."

-I will fulfill my purpose in life.

-That's why I'm here right now.

Trust Me----One Person...YOU can make the difference.

Go. Think & Pray Today. Ask God to begin to reveal to you your Purpose.

-Awaken your Purpose.

-Help someone else Awaken their Purpose.

We'll continue the story next week....

SPEND SOME TIME IN PRAYER & REFLECTION AS YOU BEGIN TO
UNDERSTAND, REALIZE, AND AWAKEN YOUR PURPOSE.

-Jesus realized His Purpose, His "for such a time as this" moment as He died on
that cross for you.

--It all begins at the cross!

-----Invitation.