

For such a time as this: Esther
Esther 4:12-16

I. Intro

- A. We have a lot of reasons to not have confidence in the flesh.
- B. Yet, so many times we stop there and camp out for a while.

II. Text

A. Esther story Summary:

- 1. From “What’s in the Bible”: The story of Queen Esther is one of the Bible’s most dramatic – a new young queen, an evil adviser to the king, a king prone to fits of rage, and a big dilemma for Esther! The basic plot summary is this: King Artaxerxes gets very angry at his queen, Vashti, and banishes her. He chooses the beautiful young Jewish woman Esther to be his new queen, but he doesn’t know she is Jewish. Her Uncle Mordecai refused to bow down to the king’s new adviser Haman, who got so angry that he wanted Mordecai and all of the Jewish people killed. Queen Esther knew she could stop the massacre by telling the king she was a Jew – and after inviting the king and Haman to two dinner parties, she finally worked up the courage to tell him. And King Artaxerxes got very angry ... at Haman! Haman was killed, the Jews were saved, and Esther became a hero to her people.
- 2. Esther was placed in a position to make a difference, and she became the tool in the hand of God that protected God’s people.

B. Verse 4:12-13: when the challenges come:

- 1. You can wish for protection
- 2. You can wish for a rewind button for time itself
- 3. You can wish you could escape all consequences.
- 4. THERE IS NO POWER IN A WISH

C. Verse 4:14 (Big VERSE)

- 1. If you keep silent...
 - a) We have choices to make
 - b) What will we do when we are to face a challenge when serving God.
- 2. Relief and deliverance will arise from another place:
 - a) Israel was going to be protected
 - b) God’s will was going to happen
- 3. But you and your family will perish: no escape from the consequences
- 4. And who knows whether you have not come “FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS”
 - a) She was positioned for this task
 - b) She was gifted for this task
 - c) She was the one God intended to use for this task

D. Verse 4:15-16

- 1. So they PRAY and FAST
- 2. They seek the Lord and serve without counting the costs
- 3. Her decision: I will go. If I perish, I perish.
 - a) She would wait in the courtyard until Xerxes noticed her
 - b) Then she would make an appeal to him
 - c) It was not legal for Esther to initiate the conversation, or to demand anything of Xerxes.

III. Points

A. The Work of God

- 1. No work of God can ever be accomplished in the flesh.
- 2. Many times, we find this to be our default response, but it is wrong every time.
- 3. Simple problems are meant to be handled the same as difficult problems.
- 4. Do not buy into the lie that man has a power that doesn’t come from God.
- 5. God worked in this situation with Esther:

- a) He blessed her with His power, position of His choice, and encouragers to continue the work
 - b) Mordecai encouraged her to serve as she had been called
 - c) The circumstances encouraged her to serve and meet the need
6. Make no mistake, this was a work of God.
 7. There is a partnership between the work of God and the responsibility of man.
 - a) What a strange mix of partners
 - b) Almighty God and Sinful man
 - c) The God of Power and the powerless man
 - d) The God who has never been defeated, and the people who can not win a battle.
 - e) It brings a great weight to responsibility.
- B. The Weight of Responsibility
1. When you recognize the challenge, you may be positioned to be a part of the solution.
 2. But the savior has, and always will be, Jesus
 3. We are responsible to serve, we are not responsible to save.
 4. The responsibility to “DO” does not come with the added responsibility to “OWN” the solution
 - a) We are to serve and fulfill our calling
 - b) We are to serve and fulfill our responsibility
 - c) We are to serve in the power God has given us
 5. My responsibility to the Lord is to be a useful tool in His hand:
 - a) That means I study His word to know Him better.
 - b) That means I pray and seek His will for EVERY situation
 - c) That means I deny myself and take up my cross EVERY DAY.
 6. The huge weight of responsibility is not a burden for us to carry, it is the Lord God that does that work.
- C. The Willingness of Faith
1. The willingness of Faith is that we enter into this partnership and recognize we bring nothing with us other than what God has given.
 2. Esther’s faith was so big that she knew this step of Faith could cost her life.
 3. She also knew that to not step out on faith could also cost her life, and the lives of all her people.
 4. She willingly served, though she was not sure what would happen.
 5. Faith challenges us to be like this in our decision making.
 6. We serve a big God that has big plans, and has big power, lets willingly work
 7. Faith compels us forward
 - a) Forward in ministry
 - b) Forward in service
 - c) Forward in grace
 - d) Forward in LIFE
 8. Mordecai asks the question, “And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
 - a) We do not know all the plans of God, but we know God has a plan
 - b) We do not know all the workings of God, but we know He is working
 9. Im sure:
 - a) Joshua may have wondered what God was doing.
 - b) Gideon may have thought there must be a better plan.
 - c) Joshua may have thought a different strategy would be better.
- IV. Close
- A. My heart/flesh/mind naturally desires to see the foundation, then step out in security
 - B. But Faith says step out on that which is unseen, and find your foundation.
 - C. The most secure you will ever be is in the middle of a giant faith leap.