



WEEKLY SERMON

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Text: Esther 4:14

A child was told to write a book report on the entire Bible. This is amazing. It brought a smile to my face and tears to my eyes. I wonder how often we take for granted that children understand what we are teaching???

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat. Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines.

My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed upon the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Any way's, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

In His Amazing Grace,

Pastor David Miklas

"Esther – A Moment of Grace"

INTRODUCTION: Has there been a time in your life during which you cried out, "Lord, why am I in this situation right now?" Maybe that moment came after an unexpected phone call or following a difficult doctor's visit. All of us face trials.

In this message, we meet a woman named Esther facing an unimaginably difficult time.

Doctrinally there is probably no other book in the Old Testament that speaks so fully of the sovereign purpose of God and their accomplishments, and yet conversely there is probably no other book that links the sovereignty of God with human responsibility as this book.

The three little books tucked in the middle of the Old Testament **EZRA, NEHEMIAH and ESTHER** record God's dealings with the Jews after they had gone through the predicted 70 years of their servitude to Babylon.

Now while EZRA and NEHEMIAH deal with the remnant of the people who returned to Judea, the Book of ESTHER is concerned with those, the far greater number, who stayed on in the land of their captivity.

Esther is a book of **CRISIS**. It is a genuine drama, not at all fictional. It is set on the stage of factual history, and gathers around actual personages. Five figures move before us:

**Ahasuerus, the Persian monarch,
Vashti, the deposed queen,
Haman, the Jew-hater,
Mordecai, the Jewish leader and uncle to
Esther, the Jewish girl who became queen.**

In the background are the royal palace, the Persian capital, and the several millions of Jews scattered throughout the emperor's dominions.

We are going to go right to the heart of the Book, to the climax of it where the chapters unfold verse by verse, where the drama of it is fantastic. Here we have a couple of Jewish people in exile, in a foreign land.

Now through the interplay of circumstances that we know are woven together by God and made by sovereign providence, a beautiful young lady named Esther, who had no disposition to be a great leader for God, suddenly takes her place to be used of God. One might ask,

**Why are Esther and Mordecai still in this foreign land?
Why haven't they returned from the captivity?**

We know many did go back, but there were many who stayed behind. Here we find Esther capitulated to the stage of history, and the light of the nation is focused from heaven upon her. If you are not familiar with the story, let me take a few minutes to remind you of it.

After Queen Vashti was disposed and Queen Esther had come to the throne, we come upon a very wicked man by the name of Haman. He had a great ego problem; he worshipped himself. Haman was in the court of King Ahasuerus.

Another man, a Jew by the name of Mordecai, refused to bow down to Haman as the king had given orders. This so infuriated Haman that he not only came up with a plan to have Mordecai hung, but he also sought to have all the Jews that were in the one-hundred and twenty-one provinces of King Ahasuerus destroyed (Esther 3:6).

So Haman encouraged the King to issue an Edict that would wipe out the Jews, and allow the proceeds from their property to revert to the king. The King issued this edict that couldn't be reversed, because it was now a law of the Medes and Persians

We now come to chapter 4 where the plot thickens. Please follow me as I read verse 1-12,

“When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; (2) And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. (3) And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. (4) So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. (5) Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was. (6) So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. (7) And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. (8) Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. (9) And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. (10) Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; (11) All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. (12) And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.”

Now verses 13-14 should be underlined in your Bible, for here I believe is the key to the Book of Esther.

“Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. (14) For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Esther went to the King and was received. The plot by Haman to hang Mordecai and kill the Jews was discovered. Haman was hanged on the very gallows prepared for Mordecai, who was honored and the Jews were saved.

"For such a time as this" presents a challenge for our church and each and every one who is a part of our church. I believe with all my heart, **THIS IS THE PLACE, NOW IS THE TIME,** and you are where you belong - in the sovereignty of God.

"For such a time as this," God brought forth **MOSES** to lead the people of God out of Egypt and through the wilderness.

"For such a time as this," God brought forth **JOSHUA** to lead the new generation of the children of Israel into the Land of Promise.

"For such a time as this," **GIDEON** was raised up by the hand of God to defeat the Midianites who were oppressing Israel.

"For such a time as this," the little shepherd boy **DAVID** was brought to the forefront to lead the nation as King.

"For such a time as this," the **APOSTLE PAUL** was raised up in the **sovereignty of God** as an instrument to carry the Gospel to the world, and pen 14 of the New Testament Books.

"For such a time as this," down through history men and women were brought to the forefront to carry on the work and ministry of God. This included missionaries and preachers. This included Moms, Dads, Sunday School teachers, and Nursery workers who were raised up in the sovereignty of God - maybe for a little time - maybe for just one task.

In light of this story, let me lay upon you several thoughts in seeking a sense of commitment that will enlarge your **VISION IN THIS TIME**.

FIRST: Consider the alternatives of not being involved. Mordecai laid it on pretty heavy in verses 13-14. He said, "Here is an opportunity, the time and the place." Esther, will you stand up and be counted? Esther will you do this for thy people?

Obviously one of the alternatives facing Esther was the **WEAKNESS OF HER HUMAN FLESH**. We all face the weakness of the human flesh in times of pressure and decision.

If we just have confidence in our human flesh, we will not hold out. We would simply fail. If we just had our human mind to depend upon, we would not make it.

The arm of flesh will utterly fail you, and it will fail me. However, in Zechariah 4:6, we read, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of host."

Mordecai was saying:

**Esther, will you sacrifice your interest for the interest of the people of God?
Esther, will you sacrifice your plans for what God is about to do in the world?**

Esther, will you stand alone or will you back off into your own self-complacency?

Esther was a fine young lady and a morally pure one. Here she is quite secure in her place in life; the envy of many of the women at the time.

But here comes her challenge to consider - either follow God's interests or her own interests. As you think about Esther, let me ask you about your challenge 3000 years later?

The **DATE, PLACE and PEOPLE have changed**, but the challenge has not changed. Always, your challenge is to be used in the place where God has placed you.

Mordecai hangs this challenge upon Esther. In the middle of verse 14 you will notice Mordecai's tremendous faith. "Then shall their enlargement (relief) and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place."

Mordecai is saying, "It doesn't matter with whom or how it may be done; He will win the victory, the outcome is not in doubt." That's a statement of faith on the part of Mordecai, who is saying,

**Esther, you can go your way.
Esther, you can do nothing about this desperate situation.
Esther, you can refuse to take your place.**

But if you do, God is still going to do something, and He will do it without you.

That is a very sobering revelation, that God can do it with you or without you. God can do it with me, or He can do it without me. And He very well may.

My friend, consider the alternatives, "for such a time as this."

What about at the place where you work? God could use you or someone else. But you are

there at this time. Do you realize your example, your witness, could be the difference between heaven and hell for one of your fellow employees?

You may be thinking, but pastor, I don't like my job. It's not what I really want. Ok, then I challenge you to ask God to enlarge your vision to include what could be done for Him at this time in that place, before you move on.

What about in your home with the family God has given to you? May I remind you, your home is your castle! The husband is the King, the wife is the Queen. Your children are Princes and Princesses. "For such a time as this," you are there to raise your children for the Glory of God. They grow-up so quickly and then they are gone.

Perhaps you are saying, O' my children, O' my husband, O' my wife, what a pain in the neck! You had better be very careful with that assessment. Consider the alternative. God may use someone else in your place, and it is they who will receive the blessings from God and not you.

What about the church where God has placed you? There may be other places you could go. But God has brought you here. God has placed me here "for such a time as this."

God is dealing with you. This is your hour. This is your time. This is your moment in this place. Will you answer the call and serve and give and go and pray, so that indeed God will get the glory?

What are the alternatives? As a believer, there are no other alternatives. This is your hour:

to give of yourself,
to give of your time,
to give of your service,
to give of your substance.

Please do not ask what are the alternatives; but rather take your stand and say, "Here am I Lord, use me."

SECOND: Consider the opportunities of being involved. Esther took the opportunity that was given as a challenge to her. Three-thousand years later, we are living in days of unrepresented opportunities to serve the Lord and to do our part. It is not so much what so and so is **NOT** doing, or what another **MIGHT** be doing. The question is **WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR GOD?** What are you accomplishing for Jesus Christ in this place in this hour?

Have you been burdened to **REPENT** and prepare for God's ministry of evangelism?
Have you felt a burden for souls needing **REDEMPTION** through the Saviour?
Have you seen a **VISION** for what can be done to reach people?
Have you been driven to your knees to beg God for **WISDOM** and **COURAGE** and **POWER**?

Notice Esther 4:15-16, "Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, (16) Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."

Look, all of us have a place to be used in the service of God, whether young or old. The question is not, "Is there a place to serve?" Because there is a place. **YOU ARE HERE** "for such a time as this!" O' what God could do with involved people. You may say,

Pastor, I can't **TEACH**. Maybe so, however, you can **PRAY**.
Pastor, I can't **PREACH**. Maybe so, however, you can **give**.
Pastor, I can't **GIVE**. Maybe so, however, you can bring folks to church with you so they can

hear the gospel and get saved.

Pastor, I can't WORK with the youth and children. Maybe so, however, maybe you can do some manual work around the church like no other.

Need I go on? To serve the Lord, please consider the opportunities here at church, in your home, in your neighborhood, or at your job.

THIRD: Consider the possibilities of being involved. Mordecai considered the possibilities and said, "Esther, you just might succeed." Let's stop looking at the possibilities that we are going to fail at what we do for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Maybe God has raised us up in this ministry to provide the support of more missionaries on the foreign fields.

Maybe God has raised you up in this ministry to provide the foundation for the next generation down the road - 5, 10 or 15 years from now.

Maybe God has raised you up for such an hour and time in the neighborhood wherein you live and work.

Maybe God is speaking to you to become more involved in your children's and grandchildren's lives for the cause of Christ.

Whatever the cause may be, the fact is, there are possibilities - many, many, many possibilities for the cause of Jesus Christ. "For such as time as this," will you take hold of that one which God has brought you?

FOURTH: Consider the security and safety of your involvement. Esther, you are in God's hands. Being in God's hands, being in the will of God, you will succeed even if you are in a place that could be dangerous to you personally or to your family.

Listen, if you are in the heart of what God is doing, it's safer than any other place. I would not want to be any other place than right here in the will of God.

Years ago, I came across this story:

Jonathan Goforth along with his wife and children were missionaries many years ago in the land of China. One day He announced that they were going to go up to a certain village and minister to those people. Mrs. Goforth stood up and said Jonathan, we can't go, you go, God has called you to go. But God has called me to be a mother. I can't take the children up into that awful desert-infested place. To many, her objections would be quite understandable.

But **Jonathan Goforth** felt compelled to go, and that they should go as a family. Again his wife resisted. So he went, and after a day's journey; he received word from his wife to come home immediately, because God had taken one of their precious little children, while **IN THAT SAFE PLACE.**

After they buried their child, the wife packed up the other children and went to that desert-infested place where the children enjoyed the best health they had ever known.

Please be careful. Over the years I have seen good folks, what you might call spiritual folks, while in the thick of God's work, leave because they have a little problem or because something may not go right. They leave, not in the will of God, but out of self-determination. Unfortunately, I have sadly watched them in the place where they think it is better, as their kids go to the dogs spiritually, and they themselves begin to fall away.

Be very careful. The safest place in the world is in the center of the will of God; where that may be for you, however contradictory it may be to your human emotions.

Esther had a brief moment for which God raised her up to bring a great deliverance to His people. If she had waffled in indecision or long-considered whether or not she'd surrender

to God's purpose, she would have missed the opportunity that God divinely brought her way.

Here again is the challenge from verse 14.

**Consider the alternatives,
Consider the opportunities,
Consider the possibilities, and
Consider the security and safety.**

Easter's story of victory can also be ours. God's providence puts us in places where we can, as God's people, influence others for Christ and lead them to faith in Christ. It is during those times that we can truly say we are placed in the kingdom **"for such a time as this!"**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon, **"Esther - A Moment of Grace"** right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."**

Romans 10:13, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **"I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation."**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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