

Esther

God's Silent Sovereignty

The Right Kind of Courage

Esther 4:8 – 5:14

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / July 10, 2022

I. Knowing Who You Are Leads to Doing What You Should

Mordecai boldly calls Esther to remember who she is and what God's promised to do in and through the Jews.

Esther 4:13-14 "Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'"

1 Peter 2:9-12 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

The identity you adopt will determine the causes you choose to take up, because who you think you are is going to shape what you think you should do here in this world!

You were never created or designed to live for you and to make much of you. You were created to live for and make much of Someone and something greater.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17, 20 "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised... ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come... ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

If you want real joy, security, and a real sense of purpose, then you'll want to lose you and be found in Him!

Philippians 3:7-10 "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death."

"In Christ" should be your all-consuming identity!

II. Knowing How to Wait Leads to Doing It the Way He Would

You can be aimed in the right direction, but the wrong tone and the wrong pace says there's something wrong going on in the heart.

God is never characterized by frantic and furious, so whenever you are, you can be sure that you're not filled with the Spirit in that moment. Something else is driving you, moving you, and fueling you to do what you do.

"There's a lot to be angry about: Injustice in various forms. The disregard of humanity, of heaven, of love, of the reigning Lord and a truth that sets us free. At the point that perpetual rage describes you or us though is when something needs to be adjusted. We need to guard what we're watching, listening to, having continual conversations around. Are they stirring us up to love and good works or just rage? Just anger? Just clenched fists and unrestrained anxiety? Truth is, most of us are scared. But instead of going to our Lord with our angst, we huff and puff and tear everything down as a way to reform our environment as if verbal violence is the way to bring heaven to earth. That may be the spirit of the age but it definitely ain't the Spirit of the living God."

~ Jackie Hill Perry

A. Esther Knew What Happens When You Wait on God

Esther 4:15-16 “Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶ ‘Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king...’”

It’s only when you slow down and submit yourself to the how, when, and what, that you really begin to acknowledge just how much you don’t know and how much you really need God to show you the way.

When you wait on the Lord in prayer and fasting, you listen, you pore over a passage of Scripture, and you pray it back to Him. You give attention to His presence and His direction.

For more help on fasting, go to: bradbigney.com/fasting-for-spiritual-breakthrough

Lamentations 3:25 “The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.”

Psalms 27:13-14 “I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait on the Lord; be of good courage. And He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.”

Isaiah 40:31 “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

In the Bible, waiting on God is never passive. It’s an active, expectant, dependent, and hopeful posture of looking and leaning away from your own wisdom and resources and saying “Oh, God, what would You do? How would You do it? When would You do it?”

B. Look at How She Trusted God and Stood

Esther 5:1 “On the third day Esther put on her royal robe and stood in the inner court of the king’s palace...”

Everything about this setting was designed for shock and awe so that you would feel as small as possible in the presence of this glorious king.

Esther stood in the presence of this earthly king because she’s already been in the presence of her eternal God and Father, so she has courage.

C. Look at How She Went Slow and Gave God More Time to Work

Esther 5:4 “...If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a feast I have prepared...”

Esther 5:8 “...If it please the king to grant my wish...let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare...and tomorrow I will do as the king has said.”

Esther wasn’t in a hurry. While she slept, God woke that pagan king and set in motion what looked like a series of insignificant little events that turned Haman’s wicked scheme onto his own head.

Esther 6:1 “On that night the king could not sleep...”

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”