

Esther 1-2 (selections)

5 When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king's palace for all the people from the least to the greatest who were in the citadel of Susa. 6 The garden had hangings of white and blue linen, fastened with cords of white linen and purple material to silver rings on marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother of pearl and other costly stones. 7 Wine was served in goblets of gold each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king's liberality. 8 By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink without restrictions, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished."

10- On the seventh day, when the King was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him... 11 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. 12 But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

17 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 and she would not come."

2.17-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. 18-and the King gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials.

Romans 8.28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Read and Discuss

Introduction

Pastor Jacob began a new series on the Biblical account of Esther. We were quickly introduced to three characters— King Xerxes, Queen Vashti and Esther. Through the beginning stages of the story, we learn how Esther (a Hebrew in exile) became queen—a position that would prepare her to live into her purpose.

For Such A Time As This - Right Time. Right Place. Right Person. - August 4, 2019

Scripture: Esther 1-2

Engage the Scripture

- Pastor Jacob gave examples of the Right Person, with the Right Words, at the Right Time, in the Right Place. A pastor pronouncing a couple to be husband and wife. A family member offering grace and truth to an angry dad. A friend pointing out your giftedness. When have you heard words that came from the right person at the right time in the right place?
- Have you ever thought about God's purpose for you? What tools or exercises help you to discern purpose? Have you ever felt a stirring in you that God may be setting you up for something new?
- Read the selections from Esther 1-2 above. The story demonstrates the options for how to live in the world. King Xerxes pursued pleasure over purpose. A great leader shares wealth and bounty with his or her subjects, but also leads with a sense of purpose and passion. Are purpose and pleasure necessarily at odds? How do you know when you are guided more by pleasure than purpose?
- Esther finds God's purpose in God's time for how she can be God's vessel. Read Romans 8.28, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* What are you doing to stay attentive to God's purpose and God's timing?
- The big question that is asked of Esther later in the story is this, *"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* Esther 4.14 It's a turning point question that challenges Esther to look for God's purpose (ironically, in a book that doesn't mention God!). Take a moment to jot down the position in life you are currently in. What are the potential benefits of being in such a position? What are the potential pitfalls?

Prayer

God, give us patience, wisdom and courage to live into the purpose you have for us. Free us from fear and doubt as well as from our tendency to try and create our own purpose. We listen for you as we learn from Esther how to take your calling and live boldly. Amen.