

## For Such A Time As This -Your Life on Purpose- August 18, 2019

Scripture: Esther 5-7

### Esther 5-7

Find the full text at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

### Acts 17:26-27

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

### Ephesians 2.10

You are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do.

## Read and Discuss

### Introduction

Rachel Armstrong continued our series on the Old Testament book of Esther, *For Such a Time As This*. She walked through the story of Queen Esther's appearance before King Xerxes when she asked him to save her people. In a complicated plot twist, the king was already inclined towards Esther's cousin Mordecai. That favor led to the undoing of the villain in the story, Haman and his plot of destruction. Mordecai and Haman's lives represent the distinction between living for your own glory vs. living for God's glory.

### Engage the Scripture

- Read Esther 5-7 on your own. If you are studying this in a group, walk through Esther 5-7 by summarizing what you recall about these parts of the plot:
  - Esther's request of the king
  - Haman's rage against Mordecai
  - The king honors Mordecai
  - Haman killed
- Rachel asked us if we ever felt like we were born at the wrong time. Do you feel like you just don't fit in with the world around you? At your workplace? In your town? In the current culture? Now consider how you respond to that feeling. Do you withdraw? Do you fight back?

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- Read Acts 17.26-27 and Ephesians 2.10. Is it easy or difficult to imagine that God picked out this time and this place for your life? Do you have a sense of the good works that God has prepared for you to do?
- There is a stark contrast between Haman and Mordecai. One man pursues his own glory and the other pursues God's glory. Through their examples we learn the following truths:

***-When your purpose is your own glory, you will constantly need more.***

Have ever started off with the best of intentions and then somewhere down the road realize that you have allowed selfish motives to take over?

***+When your purpose is God's glory, you find contentment.***

When and where do you find contentment? How is God given glory in that?

***-When your purpose is your own glory, you might find yourself plotting for someone else's destruction.***

Maybe this language sounds extreme, but have you ever noticed yourself looking or hoping for someone else's downfall?

***+When your purpose is God's glory, you might find yourself planning for someone else's blessing.***

Have you ever noticed your spirits lifted after focusing on being a blessing to someone else?

***-When your purpose is your own glory, you might find yourself laid low.***

It seems to be human nature to turn inwards. As individuals and organizations we become more focused on ourselves and less focused on those people and places God calls us to. Have you ever felt that kind of inward pull? Has it ever got you in trouble? Has it ever laid you low?

***+When your purpose is God's glory, God will exalt you in due time.***

Mordecai waited many years to be exalted by the king. Being exalted wasn't his motivation. His motivation was faithfulness to a purpose that led to God's glory. Have you ever waited for your reward in a given situation? Have you ever waited so long that you forgot what you did to deserve it?

### **Prayer**

Pray for a life that reveals God's glory at home, at work, among your friends and in the community.