

For Such a Time as This-What is this moment asking of you? -August 25, 2019

Scripture: Esther 8-10

Esther 8-10

Find the full text at www.biblegateway.com

Isaiah 55.1-2, 6-7

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters, and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.”

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Read and Discuss

Introduction

Angela Reiss wrapped up our series on *Esther called For Such A Time As This*. She told the end of the story which identified how much God was at the center of the story (even though the name of God is never mentioned in the book). God is the main character of our stories. And because that's true, we have to consider what God is asking of us today.

Engage the Scripture

- Esther 8-10 covers the part of the story when Esther pushed her luck with the king. She went back in hopes of securing the salvation of her people. All of her people. Her story reads like that of a hero. What her cousin taught her is that her purpose was being revealed by her position. As Queen she could have conversations with powerful people that no one else could. Have you ever considered how your position in the world (whatever it may be) allows you to serve as a force for good—maybe even to save the lives of others?
- Angela shared a quote, “While not all stories have sad endings, they all have sad parts.” What are some of the sad parts of your story? Is it easy or difficult to think about those moments?
- Angela mentioned a time when she overheard her sisters saying, “Two kids at 19? Her life is over” It was something that Angela had already been feeling but now was hearing out loud. It could

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have been the kind of confirmation that served as a moment of surrendering to that notion. Have you ever had to push through your own thoughts or other people's thoughts of your life in order to move forward? What did that look like? How do you discern which voices are true and helpful for you to listen to?

- The moment Esther recognized God as the main character in her life. Who is the main character in your life? That might be hard to answer. At some moments it might be you, at others, your spouse, or our kids, or your aging parents who are the main character in your life. Sometimes it feels like you don't get to choose. When are you most likely to see yourself as the main character in your life? When has your enemy become the main character?
- Sometimes you just have to say it out loud. "God is the main character in my life!" Speak it so that it will be true for you. Think through the next 24 hours of your life. What would be different if you were constantly aware that God is the main character of the story being lived out through you?
- Read Isaiah 55.1-2,6-7. This image of a free and satisfying banquet is so much better than the feasts thrown in Esther. What does this invitation tell us about the nature of God?

Prayer

God we thank you for the beautiful story of Esther. It's shocking how you move even when your name hasn't been spoken. We recognize that you are at the center of it all. Your timing, your placement, your providence leads us to lives of purpose. Give us patience for your time. Let us remain in the place you want to use us. And give us boldness to speak or act at such a time as this. Amen.