

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS
5-8-16

Esther 4:1 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;

Esther 4:2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

Esther 4:3 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.

Esther 4:4 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.

Esther 4:5 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.

Esther 4:6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.

Esther 4:7 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.

Esther 4:8 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.

Esther 4:9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Esther 4:10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

Esther 4:11 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.

Esther 4:12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

Esther 4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

Esther 4:14 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 4:15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

Esther 4:16 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.

Esther 4:17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Today is Mothers day. Today we Honor all those who are Mothers, and we also think on women in general. One of the great women of the Bible was Esther. In fact, it just happens that in my personal Bible devotions I have been reading in the book of Esther. As I meditated on the book and consider that this is Mother's day Sunday. I felt led to share a message from this wonderful book.

Out of all the verses in the book of Esther, one verse and phrase stands out in my mind as a key verse that is Chapter 4: verse 14 where Mordecai says to Esther

Esther 4:14 ... who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Mordecai reminds Queen Esther of her divine call from God to serve Him and her people and to use her position and influence for the advancement and good of her nation and the greater cause of serving her LORD.. So this book is a reminder that each of us have an obligation to do our part in this this great spiritual battle.. when the time arises and the occasion calls upon us. So this morning I want to meditate on this statement made by Mordecai, this challenge to step up to the plate and be a spokesman for the Lord.. **IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS..** When we are called upon to do so. For who knows.. God may have you strategically placed in life to be a powerful influence for good for God when the time arises and the occasion calls upon us...

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS:

This morning let us consider:

- I. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE PREPARED YOU FOR A SPECIAL TASK**
 - II. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE POSITIONED YOU FOR SPECIAL TASK**
 - III. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE PROMOTED TO DO THAT SPECIAL TASK**
 - IV. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL PROVE YOU TO SEE IF YOU WILL OBEY HIM TO FULFILL THAT SPECIAL TASK..**
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- I. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE PREPARED YOU FOR A SPECIAL TASK**

Esther 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

Esther 2:6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

Esther 2:7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

Esther 2:8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

Most of the time when God prepares us to serve Him, His preparations involve hardships and suffering.

Instead of looking at trials and suffering as punishments.. and grievances you have against God.. we should look at these as preparatory .. for service for Him..

Hadassah, or Esther, suffered probably one of the worse things a child could suffer.. the Loss of both her parents. She had no mother.. she had no father..

I remember as a child one of my greatest fears was that my parents would die.. Children want security.. The greatest security that a child has is his/her parents..

God is in the process of molding us to serve Him.. and

Iron cannot be molded without fire..

Deuteronomy 4:20 But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

NOTE: OFTEN THE TRIALS YOU FEAR THE MOST ARE THE IRON FURNACE THAT HE USES TO PREPARE YOU FOR SERVICE FOR HIM!!

Often we look to avoid trials conflicts problems..

Often we look at Esther's position as queen and think what a glamorous position. However, I don't think it was so glamorous a position.

Esther was taken into the palace by force with no promise that she was to be chosen to be the queen. One of many of the wives of the King.. and if she didn't please the King she could be banished just like Queen Vashti was...

Imagine being placed in a position where you actually would fear that you could be killed if you went in to speak to your husband without permission.

Imagine a time when the law of the land was that women were to be in subjection to their husbands..

Esther 1:15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

Esther 1:16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

Esther 1:17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

Esther 1:18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

Esther 1:19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

Esther 1:20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

Esther 1:21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

Esther 1:22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

Women complain about so many things today.. it is hard to realize that women were not allowed to vote until 1920!

In fact women were only recently allowed to vote in Saudi Arabia... women received the right to vote in Saudi Arabia in 2015!

It wasn't until WWII that women were allowed even to hold regular jobs in the workforce!

Throughout History women have suffered tremendously

Today women are out living men..

But look in the Bible men used to outlive women..

Who lived longer Abraham or Sarah , Jacob or Rachel or Leah? Women used to die younger than men because of the hardships they faced in life.. Today men die younger than women because the suffering has been alleviated.

When I first went into the ministry I would have more situations where women would suffer because their husbands took off with another women.. Today more often than not I counsel with men who suffer the loss of a wife because she left for another man!

Now the suffering that women went through often made them more spiritual than men.

Used to be when you thought of a godly influence in the home it was MOM.

Used to be that a mothers prayers meant something.

Used to be that the women of the church were steadfast and powerful..

Suffering is often what prepares us to serve the Lord..

So when Mordecai said who knows but God had you placed in the position you are in Esther .. for SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

Who knows but the sufferings that you may be experiencing in life are preparatory for SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

II. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE POSITIONED YOU FOR SPECIAL TASK

God is the one that positions you in life for His purposes..

Esther did not choose to be in Shushan..

We think we choose our lot in life.. we may think we choose but behind the scenes it is God who chooses ..

It is God who positions us where He wants..

It is God who plans it all..

It is God who is orchestrating everything..

AND FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

My wife and I were watching a historical account of the life of FDR.. and FDR wanted to badly to follow in the footsteps of his 5th cousin Teddy Roosevelt.. Everything was going according to plan but then he got sick and got Polio.. It looked like it was all over.. but in fact that was exactly what he needed.

Before FDR got sick he was arrogant.. had his nose up in the air.. was haughty after stricken by Polio he gained character and was softened a bit.. became more empathetic.. etc.

In the great depression and on into WW II the country needed a president who understood what suffering was all about!

There was no doubt that you could see the hand of God on the events of his day and His presidency. God had FDR prepared and positioned to help lead our nation .. we could say

FOR SUCH A DAY AS THIS..

Was it not God that elevated Joseph to his Position in Egypt and when His brothers could not forgive themselves for what they did to their brother .. he said..

Genesis 45:5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

Genesis 45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Joseph could have said.. FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.. I was sent to Egypt..

Moses had to be tempered for 40 years before he could be used to lead the nation out of Egypt.. AGAIN.. GOD POSITIONED HIM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

Think of the Apostle Paul.. God molded him .. prepared him and called him to be an apostle FOR SUCH A TIME WHEN HE WAS NEEDED .. The church needed a theologian to write and articulate New Testament doctrine. The right man for the right job..

We could look at Ruth and realize she was the woman God ordained for SUCH A TIME WHEN SHE LIVED..

How about Samson.. David... Daniel.. on and on we can go..

II. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE PROMOTED YOU TO DO THAT SPECIAL TASK HE ORDAINED YOU TO DO

David was keeping his Father's sheep when Samuel called for him and anointed him and promoted him to be the King of Israel..

Haman thought to destroy all the Jews.. he did not know that Esther was a Jew.. and it was .. just as Mordecai said.. WHO KNOWS.. but your being promoted to be the queen .. was set up by God Himself

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

It is God who prepares His servants for SUCH A TIME AS THIS..
It is God who positions His servants for SUCH A TIME AS THIS..
It is God who promotes His servants for SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

How can you explain how a young man like Joseph goes from being a prisoner in Pharaoh's jail to being the second ruler in all of Egypt! He rose to the occasion because he was needed for such a time when his brethren would need him.

God is able to promote anyone he chooses FOR SUCH A TIME .. when they are needed for His service...

God knows... when that time comes.. when that hour comes..

GOD PREPARES YOU, POSITIONS YOU, PROMOTES YOU..

WE SERVE THE SAME GOD.. AND WHO KNOWS BUT YOU ARE ORDAINED FOR SUCH A TIME..

IV. WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL PROVE YOU TO SEE IF YOU WILL OBEY!

Esther 4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

Esther 4:14 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?

Queen Vashti was exiled because she rebelled against the word of the King..
And now Esther was going to do something just as bad..

In fact there already was a law.. forbidding her to do what she was about to do .. and if Ahasuerus was having a bad day she was putting her life in jeopardy!

But Mordecai told her.. that who knows.. BUT FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.. God allowed you to be queen to deliver his people from destruction ..

BUT ESTHER WOULD HAVE TO PASS THE TEST OF FAITH AND TRUST THE LORD..

Today is mothers day,, and more than ever.. we are faced with adversity like never before..

The account of Esther in the Bible is a great reminder of the power of influence one of God's children can have in this world. That influence can be life changing.

When Mordecai said to Esther.. that her purpose, her power of influence for good was ordained for God **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS..** So too.. every Christian has a ministry and purpose a place of influence... God has each of us strategically placed in our communities so to have an influence for good.

IF WE HOLD OUR PEACE .. WHEN THAT TIME COMES.. WE WILL FAIL TO BE USED OF THE LORD AS WE SHOULD...

WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE PREPARED YOU FOR A SPECIAL TASK
WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE POSITIONED YOU FOR SPECIAL TASK
WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL HAVE PROMOTED TO DO THAT SPECIAL TASK
WHEN SUCH A TIME COMES GOD WILL PROVE YOU TO SEE IF YOU WILL OBEY!

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

A little lady.. in her day she thought .. WHO AM I TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.. Yet she did..
For A Special Time A Special Day a Special Occasion ..

I remember years ago one of my professors in college said.. when his church was considering him for Pastor they asked him how much money he needed to come. He said no use talking about money until they would see if it was God's will for him to come to church. Then they could talk about finances. I thought about that and said.. that makes sense. Finances are never the first and major factor in what you should do for the Lord. His call is His provision. So 33 years ago when the church asked me to consider taking the Pastoral position in this church, they asked me that question.. what would I need monetarily to come to the church. My answer was let us first see if God wants me to come and after I accept the call we can sit down with the deacons and decide what the church can afford to give me. So I accepted the call to come to the church Sept. 1983 moved here Dec 1983 and Dec 31st 1983 became full time Pastor of the church. In Jan. I meet with the Trustees and looked over the finances. OH BOY .. we were in Debt.. behind on everything had outstanding bills everywhere and it was evident the church could not pay me very much. So I realized I would have to work to supplement my income. We really struggled financially those first years.

So one of the first things I set as a goal for our church was to pay off our mortgage. We struggled and struggled with that. Ever notice how easy it is to get in debt and how hard it is to get out. For years we struggled financially .. In fact one of the reasons I started my piano business was to supplement my income. We had converted our old barn to a bus garage and I was hoping to get someone to come and take care of our church vehicles and use the barn to do so.. When I couldn't find anyone who would come and help I finally used the Barn to rebuild pianos and sell them and that was the start of my business.

We prayed and prayed to pay off our mortgage. Back then a little lady used to come to our church by the name of Gladys Delesando. Selwyn Schmitt used to bring her to church. One day she came to me and told me that she had cancer. She had a large tumor and it was malignant. She was in her late 70's and came to my office to ask if she should have it operated on. They gave her a few months to live without the operation, and maybe a year to live with the operation. Here was my advice to her. I said Gladys you can have the operation but probably will have to spend the rest of your life in a nursing home because you have no family to take care of you. You probably will live longer. But if you choose not to have the operation you will be able to stay in your home and probably will only live the two months but will die in your home and be able to come to church like you have been and then go home to be with the Lord. That is up to you. She snapped back at me.. No one is going to take me from my home I'll die in my home..

Well she lived almost a year in her home and came to church every service up to about 1-2 weeks before she died. When she died she had no children no husband no close relatives, so she left everything she had to the church ..

This little widow, who was probably the poorest of us, single handedly was sued to pay off our Mortgage.. She was our financial deliverer, so to speak, and was raised up for SUCH A TIME AS THIS..

It was then that things turned around for our church financially .. Back then I used to say we did not have two nickels to rub together and today we have three!

**WHO KNOWS BUT GOD HAS YOU TO BE A DELIVERER
A SPECIALLY PLACED SERVANT
SPECIALLY PREPARED
A SPECIALLY PLACED
SPECIALLY POSITIONED
SPECIALLY PROMOTED
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...**