

Meant to Be series

Esther week 3 outline

Esther 4:15 - 5:14

9.30.18

COLLECTIVLY COMPELLED

I. Esthers Plan

ESTHER 4:16 - *Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."*

A. Esther was willing to stand and be counted!

1. She valued her people over herself
2. She was willing to risk comfort, safety, and even her life
3. Her love for her people compelled her.
4. Does the love of Christ compel us?

Esther 4:17 - *So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him*

1. The time had come for Esther to use her unique position for God's Kingdom
2. She only had moments to decide if she would help, or hide. Her great character led her to help.
3. Great Leaders are always great followers first
 - a. In Chapter 2, Esther was willing to be lead by Mordecai and take his advise.
 - b. Now when it's her time to lead as queen, she leads well and Mordecai obeys.

II. 3 days of silence

Between chapters 4 and 5 there is a break in the text, a 3 day silent pause...

1. Esther (and the other jews) fasted and prayed for 3 days
2. She was compelled by her love for her people and her faith in God
3. There is no mention of what was said OR done during that time of fasting
4. Fasting is a time of sacrificing physical comfort, to say "NO" to ourselves and "YES" to God. To seek him first and ask for Him to move or for a spiritual breakthrough
5. She set aside EVERYTHING to seek the ONLY one who could help. she sought... and she waited

B. Esther was willing to wait upon the Lord

ISAIAH 40:31

*Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired
They will walk and not become weary.*

- Waiting exchanges our weakness for His strength
- Waiting gives us a better perspective
- Waiting helps store up extra energy to run tirelessly
- Waiting deepens our determination & perseverance

III. Esther Goes to the King

Esther 5:1 - *Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.*

1. THIS IS IT... RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD. ITS NOW OR NEVER!
2. It was against the law to appear in the king's court when not summoned, and the penalty was death
3. Either God shows up, or she dies...

IV. God Shows Up!

Esther 5:2-3 - *When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter.*

1. She is still alive! The plan thus far is working!
2. But now she must hold the course and push further.

Esther's Preparation

Esther 5:4 - *Esther said, "if it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."*

C. Esther was willing to trust God would show up, and she made plans like he would.

1. She had prayed, received direction from God, and made preparations to HIM to move
2. St. Augustine said:

Pray as though everything depends on God,
Work as though everything Depends on you

Esther Sets a different example

**Pray as though everything depends on God,
Work as though God will actually show up!**

3. She had a banquet all set before going in to the king not knowing if she would be alive in 30 minutes
 - a. Do we simply pray and ask God to move
 - b. Or do we pray and then make preparations FOR God to move?
 - c. Are we willing to make plans that if God doesn't show up we will fail, look foolish, or even die?

Esther 5:5-6 - *Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared. As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, "What is your petition, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."*

Esther's Petrification or Plan?

V. 7 - So Esther replied, "My petition and my request is: (OH THE BUILD UP... HERE WE GO... OH MAN....)

V.8 - if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and do what I request, **may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them and tomorrow I will do as the king says."**

SAY WHAT? WHY? You had him in the palm of your hand!

1. Was a second banquet just part of the plan that the Lord revealed in the 3 days of fasting? maybe?
2. Or maybe, it was fear and a shrinking back in the face of the mighty king AND her enemy?
3. Either Way, as we read further we see the Lord's faithfulness and we learn that...
 - a. God is a God of grace
 - b. God is a God of second chances (and third, and fourth and fifth...)
 - c. God's plans don't depend on our perfection, but they go better with our obedience.

Esther Was...

1. Willing to die to herself for the good of God's kingdom
2. Stand up
3. Seek the Lord
4. Make a Plan
5. and Get to it!

We must do the same! What if WE are here "for such a time as this"?

Compelled by Christ

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

LET'S BE A PEOPLE COMPELLED BY CHRIST
LIVING FOR HIM AND DYING TO OURSELVES
WHO STAND UP, SEEK THE LORD
MAKE A PLAN, AND GET TO IT