

ESTHER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!
(Esther 4:1-17)

The OT book of Esther revolves around the _____ of God and the _____ of God's earthly covenanted people, the nation of Israel or the Jews. What must you never forget?

In doing so, the book of Esther highlights about God His _____, His _____, and His _____ in keeping His promises. What does this mean to you?

But we also observe in the book of Esther the incredible weaving together of _____ and _____ in the outworking of God's plan. Why must you keep these in balance?

- A. Act I - Let's Understand the PRIMARY FACTORS that LED to the DETHRONING of QUEEN VASHTI. (1:1-22)
- B. Act II - Let's Understand the PROVIDENTIAL PROCESS that LED to the DECIDING on QUEEN ESTHER. (2:1-18)
- C. Act III – Let's Understand the PERSONAL PLOT by HAMAN to DESTROY TOTALLY the JEWS. (2:19-3:15)
- D. Act IV – Let's Understand the PERSONAL CONVICTION of ESTHER to DECISIVELY INTERCEDE for the JEWS. (4:1-17)

1. Act IV begins with underscoring Mordecai's public demonstration of grief. (4:1-3)

- What were the various reactions to hearing the edict of total Jewish annihilation in the Persian Empire?
 - 1) By the King and Haman? _____ (3:15a)
 - 2) By the people of Shushan? _____ (3:15b)
 - 3) By Mordecai? _____ (4:1-2) What did he do privately and publicly, and what did he seek to accomplish?
 - 4) By the Jews of the empire? _____ (4:3) What was always associated with these obvious signs of grief?
 - What can we learn from this? We must see our _____ of God's intervention & grace in our lives before we will turn to Him in faith. This is true with salvation and the Christian life.

2. Act IV continues with Esther's initial hesitation to Mordecai's public display of grief. (4:4-9)

- How did Esther initially react emotionally and practically? Why? (4:4)
- What did Esther then do to find out more, which underscored the gravity & urgency of the situation? (4:5-9)
- What can we learn from this? That another's grief may be your opportunity to _____ to them for Jesus sake. But to minister effectively to others, you need to _____ the situation correctly, and then utilize the wisdom and Word of God in pointing others to the Lord or meeting a need.

3. Act IV then highlights Mordecai's confrontation of Esther's reluctance. (4:10-14)

- What obstacles did Esther face in fulfilling Mordecai's command? (4:10-12)
 - a) Legally? (4:11a)
 - b) Personally? (4:11b)
 - c) Functionally? (4:11)
- What can you learn about obstacles & opposition when you seek to do of God's will?
 - 1) When you are in the will of God, He will _____ all the obstacles by His grace, though you need to always begin with the _____ will of God as revealed in His Word.
 - 2) Both persistent _____ and effective _____ have a place in God's plan, though our plans must be ultimately submitted to God's will.
 - 3) God is able to work through and in spite of human _____ to display His grace, without violating human _____ and _____.
 - 4) We must walk _____ in the Lord and His Word, and not by sight, if we are going to please Him and do His will.
- What was Mordecai's conviction and counsel regarding Esther's hesitations? And Mordecai told *them* to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that ___ will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ "For if you remain completely _____ at this time, relief and deliverance _____ for the Jews from another _____, but you and your father's house _____ perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for _____" (4:13-14)
- Can 1 person make a difference in life? Do you have a sense of purpose and destiny for your life?

4. Act IV concludes with Esther's decisive resolution to trust the Lord and to do what she could do. (4:15-17)

- Who did Esther solicit for support in this and what did Esther determine would be the course of action she would take? (4:15-16a)
- Did she understand clearly the decision she was making & potential outcome in doing this? (4:16b)
- How did Mordecai then respond? How was this a reversal of the past (4:17)
- What can we learn from this?
 - 1) That God has divine _____ that He is providentially accomplishing in this world.
 - 2) That God usually uses _____, such as people, to accomplish His purposes.
 - 3) That if you are _____ to be _____ or be useable, God will seek to use _____ to fulfill His plans, though you will lose the present opportunity and future potential reward.
- Ephesians 5:15-18

