

How to Respond to a 'No-Win' Situation

sermonaudio.com

3-Year Bible Reading Plan

By Dr. Jeff Meyers

Bible Text: Esther 4:13
Preached On: Sunday, May 31, 2020

Crossroads Ministries
301 S. 8th Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801

Website: www.fbcopelika.com
Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/jeffmeyers

First Baptist family, let me encourage you this morning to open your Bibles to the book of Esther 4. Well, I think each and every one of us recognizes this morning that we are continuing as a culture to live in very chaotic tumultuous days, in fact, we'll address the specifics thereof in just a moment. And so this morning as you're turning to the book of Esther 4, you may be wondering what would the book of Esther have to speak to our lives to the relevance of the things that we're walking through today? Again, I am marveled at the incredible providence of God. When we put our Bible reading plan together years ago, we had no idea that we would be walking through a global pandemic, we would have no idea that in recent days we would be walking through the issues that we're dealing with as a culture, and yet the book of Esther will speak to each and every one of these issues today.

As you're finding Esther 4, allow me just to give you a brief introduction to this very famous story in the Bible that almost didn't make it. You say, "Almost didn't make it?" In fact, the book of Esther is one of the most problematic passages that we have in the entire Bible. Some years ago there was a famous archaeological discovery known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. There in the Qumran Valley in the Middle East there was discovered an incredible library of ancient scrolls of which included a perfectly preserved copy of what you and I would refer to as the Old Testament. Now that's important for several reasons, one of the reasons is the fact that all the prophecies about Jesus Christ, about his birth, his life, his death and eventually his resurrection that we find in the Old Testament were dated at least 100 years before his physical ministry on earth, therefore, he was not a self-fulfilled prophet, everything that was prophesied of him was spoken of hundreds of years in advance and we have a perfectly preserved copy that's at least 100 years before his earthly ministry. But one thing that's interesting about the Dead Sea Scrolls is it did not contain what you and I know as the book of Esther. In fact, the book of Esther has been very controversial throughout time and not because of the person of Esther or the actions of Esther but because of the way the book is constructed and it's not what's in this book that is problematic, it's what's not in the book. In fact, in the book of Esther you do not find the name God anywhere. In addition to that, you don't find anybody who goes to the synagogue, anybody who prays or anybody who opens the word of God or looks to the Scriptures or even references the Scriptures. The only thing you have in the book of Esther that is remotely "spiritual" is that when Esther finds herself in a very interesting

predicament, she calls on the other ladies to fast for her. Now we would understand that particularly in this context today, fasting can be a very spiritual endeavor, however there is nothing in her life leading up to this event that said it was a part of seeking what we might call the face or the hand of God, even secular people fast at times for a variety of reasons. Why is this important? Because the book of Esther is probably the most secular book in all of the Bible and yet it speaks exactly to our days today because you and I are walking through very secular days and we'll talk about that in just a moment.

As you're turning to Esther 4, we're about to read one of the most famous verses in all of the Bible even though it's from one of the most disputed books in all of the Bible, but before we read verse 14, we're gonna read verse 13 and I want to address the fact that Esther was walking through a situation much like you and I are today not only as individuals but as a corporate body and even as a culture. Have you ever felt like you were in a no-win situation? Ever felt like that if you said something it would be heard wrong, if you didn't say something they'd be upset that you didn't say something? Have you ever felt like no matter which decision you made criticism lied around the corner? In fact, you and I today as we walk through this global pandemic, as we begin to regather on our campus, there are people that say that if you move too slow you're operating out of fear, if you move too fast you're too reckless. We live in a culture today that particularly as a believer in Jesus Christ almost every decision that we make individually or corporately appears to be a no-win situation and yet Esther finds herself in the same situation in a very secular world and we discover that when her life went down God's path, what we see at the very end of the story is victory.

Well, we know the story of Esther eventually in the end that there is a victorious moment in her life but in order to get to the victory you've got to walk through the situation that appears to be a no-win. In chapter 4, verses 13 and 14, Esther finds herself in the same predicament as you and I. Just a little background at least for the particular story before we read these verses, the king of the Medes and the Persians has created a great party. His wife has not, shall we say, met his desires in a public format so he has sought after a new queen. After a year of going through the process, Esther is declared to be the one that would be his bride. A man who despises her cousin by the name of Mordecai, by the name of Haman, who hates the Jewish people, has convinced the king to put out an edict or in our terminology an executive order eliminating all of the Jewish people off of all 127 provinces that he ruled over. Mordecai is Jewish, Esther is Jewish, and so now we find ourselves in a no-win situation. The king doesn't yet know that she is Jewish. If he follows through with the executive order, she will lose her life. If she goes in and summons the king without permission, she risks losing her life. So in just a moment we're gonna read that famous verse, "for such a time as this." It's interesting we love to quote that verse because of the timing of life and how God orchestrates things but when we find ourselves at a time like this, it's usually from a human perspective a no-win situation.

Verse 13 of chapter 4 says,

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. 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?

And so we recognize that last verse or statement in verse 14, "for such a time as this," and we love to quote it and we love to trust in it and rightfully so, but when you look at the situation that Esther was in prior to that being stated, she was in a no-win situation. If you go in to the king, you could die. If you don't go in to the king, you will most surely die. It kind of sounds like our world today, does it not? If we go forward, we're criticized. If we don't, we're criticized. If we speak up, we're criticized. If we stay silent, we're criticized. And so today I want to look at the story of Esther and the book of Esther and I think we're gonna understand that it's a whole lot more similar to our world than we could have ever imagined.

Let's begin with the parallel. How does Esther's world parallel ours? How does the world of ancient days look eerily similar to ours? I want you to turn back to chapter 1. We're gonna walk through several passages all within the book of Esther today because I want to show you how much their culture paralleled ours because if we're gonna experience the victory that she experienced, we have to understand that her responses were not in a vacuum and in a different world, so to speak, but much like ours as well.

We pick up the story in chapter 1, verse 1. It says,

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:) 2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, 3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: 4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and eighty days.

The story begins by the leader of the known world establishing, for lack of better terms, a worldwide six month Mardi Gras. I mean, that's basically what this is. It's a time to celebrate, it's a time of excess, it's a time of pleasure is what it is, and you and I today, we live in a culture that is enamored with pleasure. I mean, we've been walking through a global pandemic and how many times have you heard or seen people who just want to get back to the "fun" of life, the pleasures of life, and we're remorse that we can't enjoy that which gives us pleasure. Do you find it interesting that was 180 days, half of the year was set aside for this incredible pleasure opportunity.

Our culture today is obsessed with pleasure and, by the way, in just a moment I'm gonna "go there," but I think I have the right to. I am a sportsaholic. My kids all play sports, in fact, they all play multiple sports. My wife, if I'd be honest with you, she's a better athlete than I am. Sports has been a part of my life from the beginning of life. I'm still a fan of sports. I'm missing sports. I can't wait to go back to the stands of sports. But as I've said numerous times through this pandemic, hopefully somehow, someday we can begin to put them in their proper place. Do you find it ironic that what we know as the football season lasts about 180 days? How many times do we take sports and we suspend the more important things in life for the sake of success? I cannot tell you in a quarter century of pastoring churches how many people have come to me at a certain season and said, "Well, baseball's about to begin, or basketball's about to begin, or football's about to begin, I'll see you in a couple of months, pastor." And I struggle with that because I understand the games go late and I understand that you travel at times, but I also understand that if the things of God are important and a priority to us, we will make them a priority. It's funny we make that which is important to us a priority and we're willing to carve out time therein.

So this was a culture that was obsessed with the pleasures of life, much like our culture is. Now for some of you it may be sports, for others it may be another activity, but how many times do we find ourselves putting the things of God and the person of God on the proverbial back-burner because of the pleasures that we prefer to experience? Not a whole different than our world today.

Secondly as we walk through chapter 1, we discover that the king invites his wife to parade herself before those that are gathered. It says in verse 11,

11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. 12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

She's going to lose her position as the queen. She's going to be replaced by whom we know as Esther. She was asked to come and parade her beauty before those that were gathered. I find two things interesting about this aspect, the first is this, that when she is, shall we say, condemned for not complying, of the 127 provinces that heard about it, nobody griped, nobody complained. This was an act of sensuality. In fact, if you go back and read the commentaries and those who are a lot smarter on the book of Esther than I am, you'll discover that he was asking her to do something very sensual in a public format. In fact, there's some Jewish commentators that believe that when it says wearing the royal crown that that was to be the entirety of her outfit for the evening.

Well, however sensual it was, we do know that she was flabbergasted at the thought of doing so in a public environment. She was removed from being queen and nobody got upset about it. I don't think any of us would argue that we've become a sensual society, not only one that craves pleasure and fun but particularly during these quarantine days, I

don't know about you but you've probably digested more television than you used to, more social media, more means of electronic communication and I think we would be remiss not to say that it has become sensual. In fact, we have scenes in movies that have no business being there just for the sake of putting the scenes in there, or we have references to humor in regards to sensuality that have no business being there but they put them in there because it is a part of the agenda. We want to highlight the sensual aspects of life and here we have this, shall we say, request to be publicly sensual and nobody gets upset with anybody but Vashti; the one person who said, "I'm not gonna do it," is who everybody got upset with.

Interesting. A society of pleasure, a society of sensuality, and if this isn't relevant, I don't know what is in Scripture. Turn to chapter 3. The next issue that we're gonna deal with is one that we as a culture have been walking through for many years but predominantly in recent days. We find a man by the name of Haman, a man who is basically the king's right hand guy, a man who despises Mordecai, the cousin of Esther. He wants to eliminate him and he wants to eliminate others. I want you to hear the story beginning in chapter 3, verse 8. It says,

8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. 9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries. 10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman...

And thus the rest of the story. For those of you that are not familiar with what's happening here, because of his despising of Mordecai, he decided to systematically get the king to eliminate every Jewish person in 127 provinces. It was a society of pleasure, it was a society of sensuality, and yes, folks, it was a society of racism. Why did he want Mordecai eliminated? For no other reason than he was Jewish.

So the problems of recent days have been problems for centuries and what do we discover? That each and every one of these issues that are very similar to ours, all of them are contrary to the word of God and all of them we can classify as sin. When we put pleasure ahead of the things of God, it is sin. When we, shall we say, highlight sensuality apart from God's plan, it is sin. And when we act in a racist manner and despise and hate somebody simply because they are different than us, it is sin. And so our culture is really no different than theirs, and so when Esther is put in this position of what appears to be a no-win, oftentimes we look and say, "Well, if I was the queen or if I was in the king's court, I would have some authority, I'd have some power." You know, she was in the same position as you are in and she's in the same position that I am in. Her culture looked a whole lot like ours.

But last but not least, I want you to go back to chapter 2. I want to talk about this Mordecai guy for just a moment, the cousin of Esther. By the way, Esther was what we would call an orphan, without mother, without father in the land of the Medes and the Persians that used to be the Babylonian captivity. Beginning in verse 5 of chapter 2, I want you to hear about the background of Mordecai because it's not only a parallel to our world today, it's going to explain a whole lot of what's happening. It says,

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;
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.

Now let me unpack that for just a moment. What that says is that Mordecai most likely had been a young man in 586 BC when Nebuchadnezzar came in and ransacked Jerusalem, and much like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego, he was carried away, he was educated in the Babylonian way, he was educated in a very secular way, he was trained to be one of them. He was there when they're taken captive. Now it's 70+ years later. He is what you and I would call an elder statesman in the community. Why is it important to us that he's at the palace? Why is it critical to us that he sits at the gate all the day? Because Ezra and Nehemiah have already gone back to Jerusalem. The edict has been declared, "You can go back home, rebuild the city, rebuild the wall, rebuild the temple," and Mordecai didn't go. Why is that important? Not only did Esther live in a society that was very, shall we say, filled with the desires of pleasure and fun, a society that was desirous for sensual activity, a society that was racist at the core, but she was in a society where spirituality was void. Remember what I said? The Scriptures are never referenced. Nobody prays. Nobody builds a synagogue. And here is a man who's taken out of Jerusalem with Nebuchadnezzar, has the opportunity to go back and he does not. We live in a society today where the things of God are almost completely void.

You know, just in the last 48 hours the Supreme Court has made a ruling in regards to churches in California and the opportunity for them to "reopen." What did California state? That they could not gather at more than 25% of the capacity of their building and no number greater than 100. The Supreme Court came in and ruled that California had the right to do as they showed then. Now I struggle with this on several fronts and let me share with you. The first is this, I've been in several churches in California that can hold 5,000-8,000 people and yet they can never have more than 100? There's no consideration for how large their building may be. 2. It bothers me that the Supreme Court, the "law of our land," has established that states can now tell churches how often and how many people can come on their campus. It hasn't happened here in Alabama but don't worry, folks, if it happens somewhere, it'll happen other places as well. We have become a culture that bends and bows and breaks at the very threat of how dare you say a prayer in public, now we've become a people who we can't even gather on our campus and the Supreme Court has joined forces. Guess what, folks? Esther is our world today. We see the newscasts, we hear the feeds that are coming from us and we think, "Oh, oh, my goodness, this is so horrible!" Yes, all of it's horrible but none of it is new.

So that's the parallel. Let's talk about the providence of God, the fact that Esther was in the position she was at the time she was, because I know that you're thinking to yourself, "I just wish I'd lived in a different era. I just wish that it wasn't right now with me." I understand that but I want you to hear that God has you right here, right now for a very providential reason.

Now when I use the word "providence," you typically think of the name of a hospital or maybe even a local church body. It's one of those "Bible words" that simply means that God is working behind the scenes. The providence of God is we don't necessarily see the hand of God but when we look back in hindsight we know that he has been moving all the time, and when you look at this passage, what does he say in verse 14 of chapter 4? That is it possible that you're here for such a time as this? And what Mordecai was stating is that this is the providence of God. You're the right person, at the right time, for the right reason.

Let's talk about providence for just a moment. How had God been orchestrating things behind the scene? Well, to being with Mordecai, this elder statesman who had not returned to the homeland to rebuild the temple, just so happened, when I say just so happened think providence, just so happened to be at the gates when he heard two men conspiring to attempt to take the life of the king. He reported the crime. The king's life was saved, and it will be that incident that will cause the king to find favor with Mordecai in a later incident. It just so happens in the providence of God that when Esther is brought in with all the other ladies to decide who will be the next queen, that she finds favor with the man who's in charge and it makes you kind of wonder. He would have understood how Vashti operated, he would have understood what the king desired, is it possible that he instructed or he coached her for 12 months, "This is what you do. This is what you say. This is what he desires." The providence of God that she is in the palace at just this right moment. You could not have humanly orchestrated Mordecai being at the gate. You could not have humanly orchestrated the right guy leading her and instructing her in this 12 month process. There is no way that a young girl from a Jewish background without mother, without father, with a distant "cousin" finds herself to be the queen in the palace and not even her husband knows she's Jewish. My friends, this is the providence of God.

How do we apply that to our lives today? We could look back at situations and relationships and events that have happened and realize that on this day, at this time, even with what we are walking through as a culture from a medical perspective, from a cultural perspective, from all kinds of perspective, allow me to encourage you that you are here and I am here for such a time as this. It is the providence of God that has led us to this moment.

Now we have a distinct advantage. We know the story of Esther throughout history. We know that at the end of the story that Haman, who was the racist in the story, he wanted to get rid of the Jews, we know that he dies on the same gallows that he built for Mordecai. We know that Mordecai is promoted to basically replace him in the king's court, and we know that Esther has a festival known as Purim that takes place every year

in the Jewish culture, the longest-lasting "religious festival" in the history of the world because this woman does exactly as the Bible lays out. It's that victory, it's that other side that we so desire today but let me remind you in verse 13, she was in a no-win situation. You go to the king, you likely will die. You don't go to the king, you're most assuredly going to die. And so where does the possibilities lie? How do you and I look at Esther's story and say we want the end of her story to be the end of this story? Because when you get to chapter 4, her world looks a whole lot like ours does today. It was "burning," literally and figuratively.

But I want you to hear what Mordecai says to her in verse 14, right before this famous "for such a time as this, for if you altogether hold thy peace at this time, then shall come enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place." Let's talk about the possibilities not only that took place in Esther's life but can take place in our lives today. When he says the Jews will be delivered, they will be enlarged from another place, what he is stating there is that the plan of God is bigger than her current situation and we need to hear that today, that the plan of God is bigger than what you're walking through, the plan of God is more, is bigger than what our society is working through. And what does he say? The Jews will be delivered.

Now for the sake of time, allow me to somewhat abbreviate. God made a promise in the book of Genesis that he would bring a Deliverer, he would bring a Messiah through what we know as the Jewish bloodline, and we know that all throughout the Old Testament there were times where we were a little nervous there because they went into apostasy, they went into rebellion, but every time God did what? He delivered them. What is he stating here? God promised he's going to bring a Deliverer, he's not gonna fail his promise. If you don't go in to the king, if you don't stand up, he's going to bring somebody to the table that's going to address this issue.

It reminds me a whole lot of decades ago when I did a little Bible study entitled "Experiencing God." One of the main precepts is this: see what God's up to and join him there. We could talk about a whole lot of different plans of God but do you know what the most strategic plan of God for your life and my life and everybody's life is right now? Is he desires people to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and what if it takes our culture burning for people to realize that they are lost and need Jesus? What if it takes our hospitals being filled with people on ventilators for people to realize that we are lost and we need Jesus? You see, one of the things you need to understand is I've been to other countries, I've been in places where most of us would never purposefully live, where there is heavy persecution of believers, and those Christians are actually praying that our world of pleasure and our world of sensuality will crumble into dust so that we will finally heed God's word in our life. What we're walking through today is tragic, it is horrible on all different levels, but if this is what it takes to get our attention that we are sinful human beings that cannot fix the problem ourselves and we desperately need Jesus Christ in our lives, then when you get to the end of the story you'll realize the importance of the plan of God.

What was the plan of God in Esther's life? The Jewish people would be the means and the mechanism by which the Savior would come. What is the plan of God for our lives today? As a believer in Jesus Christ he has called us to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the other side of the tracks and the uttermost parts of the world. He has called us to be the agents of the Gospel message, the salvation message of Jesus Christ. That plan – listen to me – we have cities that are burning, we have hospitals that are full, we have a society that is upside down, it has not changed the plan of God. His purpose is to reach down into our sinful, nasty, no excuse for what we're doing lives and to forgive us and save us. That's his plan.

Now the second aspect in Esther's life is what we may struggle with, it is the plan of God to redeem and to save and to forgive but it is the patience of man. You see, we love the story of Esther. Haman meets his rightful end. Mordecai is vindicated and the entire Jewish people are preserved. We love the story but what you may not realize is that it didn't happen overnight. You know, we've been a culture today that we want instant gratification, do we not? We don't just want it done right now, we want it done yesterday, that's what we would prefer, and in a world of social media and text messaging and instant messaging, oftentimes we're frustrated if we don't get a "answer or response" with just a few moments, much less seconds.

So what does Esther do? She has the ladies fast for her. That would have taken several days. She then goes and prepares a banquet for Haman and the king and it was on the third day that she presented her case. I can't tell you how much it frustrates people when they'll bring a situation to me and say, "Jeff, we need to talk about this and we need an answer." And I say, "Well, give me 24 hours. Let me think about it. Let me pray about it." That frustrates us because none of us likes patience because according to the book of James it only comes by way of trials.

You know, even Jesus, shall we say, overturned the tables, but 18 years before he did so, he went into that temple, he warned those men that this was his Father's house, he told them what the truth should be, and 18 years later he gave them the opportunity, he settled in, so to speak, and then, boy, did he raise a fuss in John 2. Why is that important for us? Because the plan of God rarely if ever works on the time frame that we desire. We want solutions now. We want answers now. But you know, sometimes and you see this in the Bible and I've seen it in my life, have you ever gotten ahead of God? You make a mess, don't you? In fact, one of the struggles we have as a culture, number 1, if we don't have a relationship with God we're on the bad footing to begin with; number 2, even as Christians if we get ahead of God and say, "But God." I understand, you do realize that the Second Coming is the most guaranteed fact in the future of the world. How many people have "lost their lives" and done horrible things thinking they could expedite or encourage it to happen in a quicker fashion?

Last but not least, let me encourage you to turn to the book of Esther 8. Chapter 8. We're gonna talk about the one thing everybody wants in our world today, peace. So what's the possibilities? What are the things that can happen? Well, we have to understand the plan

of God, we have to understand the needed patience of man, last but not least I want you to see what happens in verse 7 of chapter 8.

7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

You see, that's the end of the story. That's the victory. Mordecai is promoted. Haman is destroyed. And Esther is vindicated in going before the king.

Now whether it's the global pandemic or the horrific events of recent days, isn't that what we really want? We want those who have done wrong to be punished. We want those that have communicated in an ill fashion to be called on the carpet. What we really want is what we see in the book of Esther, those that were up to no good, we want them to get that which we rightfully believe is due to them. The interesting thing is what we discover when it comes to peace particularly with God is Romans 5, it talks about having peace with God. And allow me to make this statement: no matter what situation we as a culture or you as an individual are walking through, we will never have peace with each other until we have peace with God.

That's interesting. Romans 5 talks about peace with God. I find it interesting where you find that in the Scripture, right before it it says, "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Right after it it says, "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Today you and I are walking through what seems like a vast ocean of issues and problems, some of them have been around for hundreds and thousands of years, some of them we wish would just go away. Why can't people get it together? Why can't people act the way they're supposed to? Because we'll never act with each other the way we're supposed to until we have a right relationship with God. What we as a people and as individuals need to do is recognize we've got a sin problem and only Jesus Christ can solve it or fix it.

Maybe today you've had emotions that have welled up in recent days or even in recent months with all that is taking place, maybe your frustration level, maybe your anger level is just beyond capacity, and maybe today you've tried this, you've tried that, you've listened to this person and you've read that person and there seems to be no solution. Allow me to share with you the only solution to all this mess is Jesus Christ and until we as individuals and until we as a country and a culture, when we finally submit ourselves to Jesus and we get in a right relationship with him, then it becomes possible that we have a right relationship with each other. Maybe today you're one of those exhausted people and saying, "Well, how can that take place?" Do you know what the Bible says? Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. You don't have to run down to a local "church house," even though they're closed today, you don't have to be on a church campus, you don't even have to be at a "large gathering," you can fall on your knees wherever you find yourself today, all you've got to do is call on the name of the Lord. You say, "Well, how do I do that?" It's real simple, just admit you're the problem. Admit you've got a sin problem, admit the fact that you have done, said and thought things you

had no business doing, and then realize that no amount of education, no amount of other endeavors are gonna solve the issue, only Jesus. Then just call on him to save you. Maybe you're that person today saying, "I want to do that. I need to do that." Let me help you out. Just have a conversation with God. It doesn't have to include the same words or phrases I might use but maybe it would go a little something like this. "God, today I want you to know that I recognize I'm the problem. I believe that Jesus Christ is the only answer to my sin problem. I believe that Jesus Christ was born on my behalf. I believe he lived a sinless life on my behalf. I believe he went to the cross on my behalf and I believe he rose from the dead so I could be forgiven and I could be saved. God, today I don't have all the answers to the problems of the world much less my own, but I do know that Jesus Christ is the only answer to my sin problem. The best way I know how, I'm asking you to forgive me, I'm asking you to save me. God, I want to have peace with you so I can have peace with others."