

Sermon Notes – Sunday 15th September

Esther: ‘Dilemma’s and Decisions – for such a time as this’

- What do you feel as you look around at our world today? Afraid? Intimidated? Courageous? What areas stand out to you as particularly out of step with God’s will?

Read Esther chapter 4

Mordecai’s challenge to Esther left her in no doubt about his wishes; he told her she was to risk her life to plead for the Jews. If she did not, she would face death herself even though the Jewish people as a whole would be saved in some other way (v13,14). What a dilemma for Esther!

- Has there been a time when you were faced with a difficult decision?

Have a look at the references to ‘time’ in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

- What time are you in right now?

There are many references to time in the Bible. Jesus always acted in accordance to the right time set by his Father, but he accused the Pharisees of their inability to ‘interpret the signs of the times’ (Matthew 16:3)

- How would you interpret the times in which we live today?

Hosea says; ‘break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord’.

- How might an attitude of complacency affect our willingness to do this?

Esther found herself in position in the royal court ‘for such a time as this’ in order to act to save her people.

- Where has God positioned you ‘for such a time as this’ and where can you have influence to be God’s agent of change and transformation?

Esther lived in a time of danger and intimidation, as do we, but she came to a settled decision as to what she should do and gave instructions to Mordecai.

- What kind of crisis would it take for you to enter into 3 days of fasting and prayer, or do you fast and pray as a regular spiritual discipline?

‘She shows her understanding that the destiny of nations is not in the hands of politicians but in the hands of the people of God who pray’.

- In the light of our present political climate, how might we respond to this statement?

Time for prayer, time for courage to speak out, time to risk all.

How does this account of Esther inspire you to know that God has positioned you to make a difference, right now, in this time?

- Reflect on one aspect of this study that has a. **Encouraged you?** b. **Challenged you?**

Spend some time in prayer seeking the Lord in earnest intercession for our times.

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