

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 6

2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!

Scriptures for Today: Esther 4:1-17 – Great Mourning among the Jews & Mordecai’s Charge

Title of Today’s Message: The Sceptre of Mercy – You are alive for such a time as this!

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were introduced to the **devilish villain Haman** and his *murderous plot* to **DESTROY** all Jews – the people of Mordecai! And, we learned that it was the work of the **DEVIL** – the *spirit of antichrist*. Today, we will see Mordecai and all the Jews in _____ mourning. Esther and those in the palace will seemingly be out of touch with reality in the world. And, when Esther hears of Haman’s plot from Mordecai, she will be faced with a **life-changing** _____. She will be given an opportunity to _____ on behalf of God’s people to save them from perishing at the risk of her own life. She will be told that she has come to the kingdom for SUCH a _____ as this! You will be challenged to believe the WORDS of God and obey them. Listen closely as we read them.

PREACHING NOTES

1. Because of the king’s decree (Haman) to _____ **all the Jews**, there was **great mourning**.

- ✓ When **Mordecai perceived all that was done**, he mourned publicly for the Jews’ sake.

Joshua 7:6
Daniel 10:2

“And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face...put dust upon their heads”
“In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.”

NOTE Mordecai provides us with the elements of mourning – “rent his clothes” (picture of torn flesh), “put on sackcloth and ashes” (grave clothes, picture of burial), and “cried with a loud and a bitter cry” (picture of torment and hell). He is a picture of the Jews all through history.

- ✓ Mordecai **went out into the streets** and came even before the king’s gate.

Psalms 100:2
Psalms 100:4

“Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”
“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise...”

NOTE It was not lawful to come into the king’s gate clothed in grave clothes and mourning! Yet, there is Mordecai in the streets crying with a loud and a bitter cry. We should be very glad that our King does not have such a law – but we sure ought to come with singing and praise.

- ✓ **Whithersoever the king’s commandment came**, there was great mourning among the Jews.

Isaiah 58:5
Isaiah 37:1-29
Daniel 9:3

“Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul?”
“And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered...”
“And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting...”

NOTE All through history, the Jews, when in great peril, have turned to mourning with prayer and supplications, with fasting. This was a serious time – a time for praying and fasting. God is moved when He sees and hears His people!!! When were you last this serious with God?

- ✓ At first, **Esther tried to take away Mordecai’s mourning**, but he refused to be comforted.

Genesis 37:35
1 Corinthians 12:26

“all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted”
“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it...”

NOTE Esther was trying to SOLVE A PROBLEM without even knowing what it was! Sound familiar? It is evident in the story that Esther was not truly aware of what was going on. She tried to cover up Mordecai’s mourning, but he refused. It was then that she sent for more details.

2. Mordecai **charged** Esther with truth that **she was come to the kingdom** to _____ her people.

- ✓ Mordecai charged Esther that she should go in unto the king to pray before him for her people.

Proverbs 21:1 *"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."*

NOTE Mordecai laid on Esther a purpose for her life – she had an opportunity to save her people!

- ✓ Esther's first response was to **remind Mordecai of the king's law** – certain death for breaking it.

Exodus 33:18-20 *"Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live."*
1 Timothy 6:16 *"Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto..."*

NOTE With this Persian law, we are reminded of the HOLINESS of Almighty God! Historians tell us that the law was made for the security of the king. In the holy Bible, God reveals to us that He is HOLY and a consuming FIRE. No person can enter His presence without righteousness.

- ✓ The **only way DEATH could be avoided** was to have the king extend the golden SCEPTRE to you.

Numbers 24:17 *"there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel..."*
Exodus 25:22 *"And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat"*
John 1:12 *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God"*
1 John 5:11 *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."*
1 John 5:12 *"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."*

NOTE Praise the Lord – Jesus Christ **IS** the SCEPTRE!! God has granted to ALL an opportunity to be saved from His wrath to come (death) – but only to those who RECEIVE HIS GIFT – HIS SON!

- ✓ Mordecai commanded Esther to **SPEAK** for God's glory – it was her reason for **BEING** (queen)!

Jeremiah 20:9-11 *"Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay...All my familiars watched for my halting...But the LORD is with me..."*
Proverbs 24:10 *"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."*
Luke 14:27 *"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."*
Acts 5:20 *"Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."*

NOTE These words must have been to Esther in her heart as Jeremiah described, "a burning fire" in her bones. Do you feel it from God's Spirit today in your heart? Esther was charged by Mordecai. Today, we are charged by the Holy Spirit of the living God – we cannot stay!

- ✓ Esther's response was **humbling** – she **YIELDED** to Mordecai **as she had done her entire life!**

Esther 2:20 *"for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him."*
Job 13:15 *"Though HE SLAY ME, yet will I trust him..."*
Dan 3:16-18 *"BUT IF NOT, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship..."*
1 Samuel 17:29 *"And David said, **What have I now done?** IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?"*

NOTE Esther clearly understood that it was HER TIME in history. We too must understand that it is OUR TIME in history. If we will not speak up – God will raise up others or use the ROCKS!

The little girl had grown up. She has taken on responsibility, and she is going to RISK HER LIFE TO DO **as Mordecai asked**. So, Mordecai reciprocates and does as she asks him to do. HUSBANDS – Gen 21:12 – "in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice" PARENTS & ALL BELIEVERS – 1 Pet 5:5 – "Yea, all of you be subject one to another"

We all need to yield to the Holy Spirit today as He speaks in a personal way to each of us!